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Egypt

President Mubarak held a joint news conference with Secretary of State Baker 22 July following their talks on the peace process, MENA reported. Mubarak said the Arab boycott against Israeli goods would end when Israel stopped its settlement-building in the territories. He said Israeli Prime Minister Rabin "needs to offer more" to convince the Arab states that the peace process is viable.

Syria

Secretary of State Baker paid a second visit to Damascus on 22 July, arriving in the coastal town of Latakia following his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo. Speaking at a news conference on 23 July, Foreign Minister al-Shar' described Baker's talks with President Hafiz al-Asad as "positive, frank, and fruitful," noting that both leaders "made real efforts" on behalf of the peace process, Damascus radio reported.

Lebanon

Secretary of State Baker, President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz held talks at al-Hirawi's home in Zahlah on 23 July, Beirut radio reported. The talks centered on "resuming the peace talks following the formation of Rabin's government," according to the radio.

Iraq

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a news conference in Baghdad in which he stated that Iraq would not allow the UN inspection team "to threaten its national security" and would not allow any UN-affiliated person to "interfere" in Iraqi "internal affairs," Baghdad INA reported. In another development, Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani said that "vital documents on Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons" were stored at the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad, according to an Ankara-datelined AFP report.

Israel

Palestinian "sources involved in the peace process" said "there has been no change" in their demand to establish a legislative assembly, DAVAR reported. They denied media reports that "they had allegedly agreed to set up an administrative council for the self-government authority" in talks with Secretary of State James Baker 20 July. According to a YEDI'OT AHARONOT report, Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres rejected an offer by Secretary Baker to sign "a defense pact between the United States and Israel in return for readiness on the part of Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights." Meanwhile, a "senior Egyptian source" said that it was possible that the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the peace process "would convene in Washington in several weeks," Jerusalem radio disclosed. In other news, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer held a news conference 23 July outlining the new government's construction program, Tel Aviv radio reported. His remarks were a response in part to what he termed "various reports about data inconsistencies in the Construction and Housing Ministry."

Palestinian Affairs

A "responsible Palestinian source in Tunis" denied reports that PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has ordered the dismantling of Force-17, the Fatah military arm, Jerusalem's AL-FAJR revealed.

Islamic Affairs

GCC's Bisharah Reviews Gulf Security Issues

PM2207154092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 21 Jul 92 p 9

[Interview given by 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to SAWT AL-KUWAYT editorial staff in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] You spoke about building military forces belonging to the [Gulf Cooperation] Council [GCC]. May we ask how such forces can be formed, and are there sufficient national human resources to form them?

[Bisharah] Yes... because all the GCC states will contribute to these forces, and the door will be open to all GCC states' citizens, regardless of nationality.

What we are discussing is whether it is practical to do this now. There is also the task of strengthening and rebuilding the symbolic Peninsula Shield Forces. The idea is to restructure them to make them a nucleus for an armed deterrent force.

There is also the task of building the national army of each GCC state on the basis of a common understanding.... This means that these armies will comprise the citizens of these states, not foreign mercenaries.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What is expected from discussions concerning the Damascus Declaration?

[Bisharah] We have an important meeting ahead of us on 9 September. It aims to continue the implementation process which began with drawing up a strategy for coordination and consultation among the six GCC member states, Egypt, and Syria. There is also the political coordination process designed to secure the necessary accord and harmony in joint policies. Then there is the economic aspect which proceeded from bilateral foundations between the declaration states, the interest in an economic contribution from each of them, and the role of economic development in consolidating the pillars of peace and security in our region. In fact it is a step forward to achieve a new economic system, apart from its important political objectives. And do not forget the important role of the private sector and freeing markets from the domination of official bureaucracy.

We believe that the declaration constitutes a move toward a new and more comprehensive charter for economic cooperation among Arab states. In my view, it is the charter for a future that guarantees a confirmation of the sovereignty of the states concerned in accordance with international law. It also clarifies the horizons of the Arab future that we are seeking. This, because we seek to renew and deepen the Arab Charter which started with the Arab League's birth, starting with the emphasis on strong regional cooperation. An example of this is the Gulf aid to Syria and Egypt, which totals $6 billion.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Have there been any calls from Gulf states to delay implementation of the Damascus declaration?

[Bisharah] The Damascus declaration is an expression of the new Arab order that we are seeking and in which we see a real and sincere embodiment of the Arab peoples' unity. It is the alternative to buffoonery and slogans about a single homeland, when one Arab state is committing an aggression against another, as happened in Kuwait, and some Arab governments and quarters are applauding invasion and occupation. The new Arab order that we advocate and that we are working for means a complete commitment to every member state's security, and respecting and protecting it.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What are the GCC states' reservations about inviting foreign forces to safeguard security in the region?

[Bisharah] No reservations. Safeguarding security is one of the three foundations of Gulf cooperation, in addition to the economic and political foundations. The political aspect is coordinating joint policies. The economic aspect is liberalism, opening up, and cooperation based on the new climate currently prevailing throughout the world.

Regarding the region's security, stability, and protection, every state has an inalienable and legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and territory using the methods and means available to it, including inviting foreign forces to that end. So if Kuwait uses forces from Syria, Egypt, or elsewhere, that is its legitimate right. In the end that serves the interests of the region and the GCC states, since its security and stability are a whole and cannot be divided.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT] What is the nature of the strategy for the security system whose foundations have been drawn up by the GCC?

[Bisharah] First, every GCC state is entitled to secure a reassuring mechanism to safeguard its security, stability, and sovereignty.

The second point, which no one can argue about, is the GCC states' right to choose the means or tools to protects their stability and security. The GCC states' security is not separate from regional understanding or from the Arab and international dimensions. Thus the first thing the GCC states should do is build their own capabilities, since they must strengthen their security march and espouse a joint strategic theory and agree on the right formula for self-building, one of whose major elements is self-reliance and the security link among GCC states, in order to achieve the collective defense principle, which is the first link in the security structure known as "the security system."

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Will there be a security role for Iran within that system?

[Bisharah] The Iranian state shares the sensitive strategic waters which contain the largest energy reserves at present. This is why the GCC states—and Iran, too,—have international responsibilities for safeguarding Gulf stability and security, that is, the stability of Gulf waters, guaranteeing freedom of shipping, and secure sea routes in international waterways. And also to cooperate among themselves in the field of protecting the environment, fisheries, and life and trade requirements. In other words, all strategic requirements, which require cooperation between GCC states and Iran, in order to achieve regional solidarity, which is necessary now for the sake of stability and understanding in order to achieve world security. In this case such security must be achieved in the centers of tension, since one of our responsibilities as GCC states is to defuse tension in the Gulf region, through understanding with the Iranian state. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Militarily, is it possible to imagine, for example, an integrated Gulf military establishment relying on the establishment of a unified army?

[Bisharah] Military building is a difficult issue. First, because the GCC states suffer from a low population density. Second, because of the small number of trained forces. Third, self-building takes a long time. It takes time to combine all these issues within a single view and to implement it. Nevertheless, there is strong Gulf awareness that rigorous and deep security cooperation among the GCC states is essential.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Is there any intention of setting up a Gulf rapid intervention force?

[Bisharah] No. What is proposed is to reexamine the Peninsula Shield force and to increase its size in order to increase its effectiveness, which will take some time. We are dealing with the Gulf security issue by achieving three political tasks: self-building and diplomatic action in order to achieve regional accord. The third task is to achieve regional-Arab and world understanding. We would add a major fourth point: We know that the present and future focus is on development. Such a focus is no longer based on political and ideological convulsions or convulsive slogans. These things achieve no development. What achieves development is hard work, expanding the circle of common interests, and expanding the boundaries of these interests, both regionally and internationally. This is how we should look at the future.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Regarding the Iraqi regime, people expected it to fall within two or three weeks after its defeat in the Gulf war, but it is still continuing its line.

[Bisharah] We still adhere to the sanctions. That is all we can do. We have no armies to go there to topple the regime. The regime must be toppled from within. There are pressures on the states backing it. There are pressures on Jordan. Jordan has contributed a great deal to prolonging the regime. The Iraqi people are still exercising their opposition to the regime, but there is terror. Nevertheless, the Saddam regime will be toppled from within. It is a matter of time.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs PLO Leadership Meeting in Tunis

Baker Talks Discussed

LD2207173992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The proceedings of the PLO leadership resumed in Tunis this afternoon in an attempt to adopt a unified stance toward the Arab-Israeli negotiations and the new policy adopted by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat chaired these proceedings, which started yesterday evening. The discussion focused on the results of the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the Palestinian delegation from inside the occupied Arab territories.

The Palestinian leadership expresses its rejection of the decision adopted recently by Israel stipulating a temporary interruption of building settlements inside the occupied Arab territories, considering this to be an insufficient and limited step for the achievement of peace in the region. Also, in this regard, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has reiterated that Palestinians reject the idea of the United States giving loan guarantees to Israel.

Information Official Comments

LD2207232192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, confirmed that the PLO leadership, meeting in Tunis since Monday evening, has demanded a total halt to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

He also said that the Palestinian leadership, under the leadership of the brother President, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], considers that the decision of partial and provisional freeze of settlements in the occupied territories, which was announced by Rabin last week, was a limited, partial, and inadequate step.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed Baker's meeting with Palestinian personalities. 'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that the United States is required to exert greater efforts to force the Israeli government to decide on a complete halt to settlements and to respect the Geneva agreement on the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian leadership also discussed its plan for holding elections in the occupied territories to elect a

legislative council of 180 members, which would have complete authority over these territories during the transitional period, in preparation for the establishment of the right of self-determination.

'Abd-Rabbuh also pointed out that the PLO yesterday called on the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to respect the bases of Palestinian national unity and to settle the political disputes between the Palestinians through dialogue. It also invited Hamas to meet with the PLO Executive Committee leadership as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

'Final Statement' Previewed

NC2207141792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 22 Jul (MENA)—The Palestinian leadership, chaired by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, is continuing its meetings to formulate a new strategy and draw up a specific Palestinian policy for the new round of peace talks following the formation of a new Israeli Government under Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin.

The Palestinian leaders held a meeting last night that continued until 0500 Cairo time today to complete their discussions of the items on their agenda and set up a committee to formulate the final statement and recommendations they will issue.

MENA's correspondent has learned that the Palestinian leaders' final statement will assert that the Palestinians will continue to participate in the peace process with complete frankness while adhering to Palestinian national rights as approved by the recent sessions of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council in Tunis.

The final statement also will call for strengthening national unity and holding a dialogue between all PLO factions and the Islamic movement Hamas in the occupied territories to bolster national unity, avoid a recurrence of the clashes between Fatah [Palestine National Liberation Movement] and Hamas, and seek to enhance and support Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories.

MENA's correspondent also learned that the Palestinian leadership's final statement will urge a greater degree of coordination with the Arab countries in connection with the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations in order to confront the policy of Rabin's new government, which is vague.

The MENA correspondent learned that the Palestinian leadership will explain the Palestinian position to various international parties and countries concerned with the Middle East peace issue by sending messages and envoys to those countries.

The Palestinian leadership began its meetings two days ago in Tunis. The PNC Presidium, members of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, and the secretaries general of the PLO factions are participating in the meetings.

Delegation Leader Discusses Upcoming Peace Talks

TA2207151092 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the peace talks, said that an advance session of talks will be held next month in Washington to coordinate positions in preparation for continuing the bilateral negotiations in Rome.

He added that some members of the Palestinian delegation will leave this morning for Amman and from there to Damascus to participate in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting for coordination prior to the upcoming round of negotiations.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi explained that, during their meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Palestinian delegation affirmed its readiness to hold a preparatory meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian sides in Washington.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the aim behind today's visit by some members of the delegation to Damascus is to coordinate with the Arab sides, something for which the Palestinians have been keen from the outset.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was useful and that an exchange of views was held on some measures adopted by the new Israeli Government that should be taken into consideration.

He said that the Palestinian delegation is still awaiting more information about the positions of the new Israeli Government.

'Ashrawi Demands 'Total Halt' to Settlements

TA2207152792 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 15

[By Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian position on settlements is firm, namely, we cannot accept any form of settlement activity. We insist on a total halt to settlements and we do not differentiate between political and security settlements.

She stressed that this is a major issue in the success of the negotiating process because settlement activity contravenes the principles and goals of this process.

'Ashrawi also voiced Palestinian dismay over the possibility that the United States might grant the loan guarantees without a complete halt by Israel of settlement activity in the occupied territories.

In a related development, 'Ashrawi stressed that the transitional stage should include the full transfer of

powers from Israel to a Palestinian self-government chosen by a Palestinian legislative assembly elected by the Palestinian people through democratic and free elections. Those elections should be held after Israel adopts concrete steps to calm the situation by releasing detainees, ending press censorship, launching political freedoms, and returning the deportees.

She explained that the elected legislative assembly should have authority over judicial, executive, and legislative affairs.

Freeze Termed 'Basic Condition'

TA2307145892 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jul 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The U.S. Loan Guarantees and Israeli Settlement Activity!"]

[Text] Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories is the foremost concern of Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories. A total, comprehensive, and decisive halt of settlement activity is a basic condition for the resumption of bilateral negotiations in Rome next month and is an essential prelude to achieving progress. As far as we are concerned, Israeli settlement activity is not just a "security" or a "political" issue governed by the requirements of political pragmatism. Rather, it is simply a matter of life or death because ultimately it is connected to land, which is the source of our subsistence and inspiration and the first factor in determining our cultural and political identity as people who have the right to exercise their legitimate rights and who fulfill the conditions of life as other peoples of the world.

In light of the changes in the Israeli political arena; Baker's current tour of the region; Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo; the optimism surrounding the possibility of advancing the peace process that has accompanied all these political moves and changes; and the need for U.S. President George Bush to consolidate his electoral position vis-a-vis his Democratic rival, Bill Clinton; the real fear gripping the Palestinians today stems from the fact that the U.S. Administration might agree to grant the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel in return for a subtle and ambiguous Israeli formula for freezing settlement activity in the occupied Arab lands that will be presented by the Labor Party.

Israeli media sources have reported that Israel will deliver to the United States a detailed report about the start of settlement construction in the occupied territories before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States next month. Those sources also reported that the Israeli talks with James Baker at the beginning of this week dwelled on a general formula for freezing settlement activity in return for granting the loan guarantees with the understanding that a settlement freeze does not cover Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, or the settlement structures that are in the final stages of construction. This means that the talk is over a very partial and limited settlement freeze.

The Palestinian stance rejecting Israeli settlement in all forms and in all "stages of construction" remains firm. This is based on a firm principle determined by international legitimacy in its various resolutions. Since the United States has linked the granting of loan guarantees to Israel to a settlement freeze in the occupied territories, and since Baker has announced Washington's refusal to differentiate between "political" and "security" settlements, the acceptance by the United States today of any limited formula for halting Israeli settlement will mean that it has acknowledged the legitimacy of this "settlement." This is something that will expose the peace process—for whose advancement the United States is exerting frantic efforts—to collapse.

Editorials View Baker's Middle East Position

Haste To Grant Loans Alleged

PM2107154092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jul 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Legitimate Palestinian Fears"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met yesterday with a Palestinian delegation from the occupied Arab territories within the framework of his present tour designed to revive the peace process in the region, which is sponsored by his government but which has has made no progress, despite its five rounds, because of Yitzhaq Shamir's intransigence.

Early reactions to the meeting indicate that the U.S. side did not openly oppose holding elections in the occupied territories—the demand presented by the Palestinian delegation with another group of demands, including, first and foremost, a complete halt to settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Rabin seems fully aware that the Palestinian side will not be fooled by evasive methods and that the peace process cannot make any progress as long as his new government's position on settlements is vague. This is why he announced yesterday a complete reexamination of all settlement projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. James Baker welcomed that, describing it as an encouraging step toward a solution and the granting of U.S. loan guarantees requested by the Israeli Government to settle the new Jewish emigrants arriving from the former Soviet Union and socialist bloc states.

The Israeli "flexibility" displayed by Rabin and the enthusiastic U.S. welcome granted to it undoubtedly arouse the fears of many people in Palestinian circles, because it gives a "false impression" with regard to peace and leads toward granting U.S. loan guarantees without achieving any progress toward a settlement.

Clearly the present U.S. Administration is rushing things to achieve a quick victory in its foreign policy before the

presidential elections, in the hope of improving President Bush's chances of winning and increasing his popularity among the voters, especially the Jews. Rabin's "flexibility" is likely to be exploited as a pretext for granting Israel the loans, especially since there are strong rumors that Baker could leave the State Department to lead Bush's election campaign. This, because if Baker does so, he will be able to argue with U.S. Jews that he is not an enemy of Israel, that he is in complete accord with its government, that he made progress in the peace process with its neighbors, and that he granted the loan guarantees.

Palestinian fears in this regard are legitimate, and wariness of Rabin's "flexibility" is justifiable, too. This, because the Palestinian people want nothing from the United States except their legitimate rights and implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy which emphasize these rights. This, because it is the sponsor of the peace process and the sole world superpower. This demand is not impossible or exaggerated. Rabin's friendship with the Bush administration should not jeopardize these rights.

We are aware that settling such a complicated issue as the Palestinian issue is no easy matter in the present frustrating Arab situation. It will take time and patience, as the Americans say. But why are the Palestinians always the only side in the world that is asked to be patient and to make concessions, while other people of the world—most recently the fraternal Kuwaiti people and then the friendly people of Bosnia-Hercegovina—were not asked to do the same, and the United States was determined to swiftly implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and to send in international forces?

The Palestinian people have waited for over 44 years during which they have suffered a great deal of disobedience on the part of the international community and Israeli repression and terrorism. They have also suffered as a result of their cause having been confined to the occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, half of which have been eaten up by the settlements. Is it not time for that wait to end?

Palestinian Stance Praised

TA2107180392 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Fundamentals of the Palestinian Position"]

[Text] During yesterday's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the head and members of the negotiating delegation reaffirmed the Palestinian position's fundamentals and national constants regarding the peace process in the region. Those fundamentals stem from the resolutions of consecutive Palestine National Councils, which in turn are based on international legitimacy's principles and resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulating Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories on the basis of the "land for peace" principle.

By reaffirming the Palestinian position's national constants, our negotiating delegation's members prevented the U.S. secretary from embarking on any new U.S. attempt to pressure the Palestinians and the Arabs in a bid to obtain further concessions. Following nine tours by Baker, there is nothing left for the Arabs and the Palestinians to give up. This means that Baker's pressure should be directed at the Israeli side, which has always barricaded itself behind policies and positions that contravene international laws and norms.

Our negotiating delegation's members affirmed to the U.S. secretary the need for the U.S. Administration to adopt concrete measures toward resuming the dialogue with the PLO, emphasizing that improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations should not take place at the expense of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Moreover, our negotiating delegation's members called on Israel to prove the seriousness of its intentions toward peace, to accept implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to adopt concrete measures toward this end, such as releasing detainees, abolishing press censorship, and ending illegal practices that Israel carries out against detainees.

Furthermore, our negotiating delegation's members stressed that the first stage is an interim transitional stage during which the Palestinian authority should be able to have control over land and resources, including water. This authority should be elected in open elections in which Jerusalem residents must participate and which should be subject to international supervision in order to prevent any Israeli interference in them.

We hope that Baker will view these fundamentals seriously and will pressure Israel's leaders to force them to respond favorably to them. We hope that this response will constitute the main condition for granting Israel the bank loan guarantees, because granting the guarantees without the acceptance of these fundamentals will intensify Israeli intransigence and reward Israel's leaders for policies that contravene international law, causing the destruction of the peace efforts and a return to the cycle of violence in the region.

No Justification Seen for Optimism

TA2207165892 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Baker's Optimism Has No Justification"]

[Text] During a news conference at the end of his talks in Amman yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker stressed that there is no difference between "political" and "security" settlements and called on Israel to stop all settlement activity in the occupied territories.

It is noteworthy that this extremely positive U.S. stance regarding the question of settlements conforms with the Arab and Palestinian position which was voiced by the parties with whom Baker met yesterday and the day before in Jerusalem and Amman. Members of the Palestinian delegation who met with the U.S. secretary reaffirmed the need to declare a freeze on settlement activity in its "security" and "political" parts, just as Amman demanded the same position, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

What is also noteworthy is that this language in Baker's remarks should have been very clear and frank during his meetings with Israeli officials who expressed satisfaction over their talks with Baker. This satisfaction reflects the compatibility of the U.S. and Israeli positions and contradicts Baker's statement in Amman yesterday. This deprives the U.S. Administration of playing the role of a neutral mediator because such a role requires the existence of minimal disagreement with Israel, which is declaring publicly its refusal to respond to international legitimacy's resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 that call for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

Stopping settlement activity, commitment to the "land for peace" principle, and adherence to international legitimacy are the essence of the peace process. Any Israeli behavior that contradicts these bases means placing obstacles on the path to peace. This requires Baker and his administration to shoulder their responsibilities and remove the Israeli obstacles from the path of peace. Definitely, the removal of obstacles cannot be done by freely unblocking the loan guarantees.

Despite the climate of optimism that Baker is trying to inject in the region during his current tour, not only do we not see in the visible signs any justification for such optimism but we see no hope whatsoever for the success of the peace process as long as the U.S. Administration does not reconsider its policies toward Israel and force its leaders to yield to international will.

Therefore, while cautioning against drowning in the optimism which Baker is spreading during his current tour, we renew our call to the Arab parties that will be meeting on Friday in Damascus to raise the level of coordination between them and to reject any separate, partial, or normalization solutions which Israel is trying to achieve.

Only U.S., Israeli Aims Realized

TA2207191092 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jul 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Other Aims of Baker's Tour!"]

[Text] Following the conclusion of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Israel, all the parties declared that progress was achieved in the peace process. The Palestinians, the Israelis, and the Americans expressed their satisfaction at the talks that Secretary Baker conducted, although in different proportions. The reservation with the Palestinian side is that the Israeli leader's remarks about "a partial and temporary" freeze on settlement activity are vague and that there is no Israeli commitment to completely halt settlement activity in the occupied territories. Moreover, Rabin's differentiation between security and political settlements leaves the door open for expanding some settlements and establishing others under the pretext of being security settlements. This excuse is groundless because the lands on which settlements—regardless of how they are categorized—will be set up are occupied Arab lands.

As for the Israelis, their goal is obvious, namely, obtaining the $10 billion in loan guarantees which are required to finance the settling of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The flexibility in Rabin's statements about settlement activity and his talk on the need to advance the peace process and achieve compromises with the Palestinians and the Arabs represented the music for which Washington had been waiting for many years.

As for the Americans, the U.S. Administration is eager to achieve quick progress in the peace process. Secretary Baker knows that his own political future as well as that of President Bush depend on the results of his current tour. President Bush faces a hard election campaign against his Democratic rival, Clinton. The achievement of a political victory in the Middle East will aid Bush-Baker in the election campaign and will raise Bush's deteriorating popularity. Secretary Baker's success in his current tour will help President Bush win the upcoming election.

After reviewing the parties' positions we return to the core of the problem, which Secretary Baker did not want to address. It is summarized in the U.S. position's ambiguity and in ignoring the commitments of Washington—as the sponsor of the peace process—toward the basic principles upon which the peace conference was convened. What about "the land for peace" principle to which Washington committed itself before the peace conference? And what happened to international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338? We are no longer hearing anything about these resolutions and the need to implement them.

The U.S. Administration is required to clearly define its official position on this issue, namely, that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, including East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and south Lebanon are occupied territories from which Israel must withdraw at the end of the peace process. These are the basic matters which Secretary Baker is refusing to address.

Hence, it seems that Baker's tour has realized good results for the United States and Israel. Indications are that Secretary Baker will return to Washington having realized the achievements for which he came and that

Rabin has paved the way for obtaining the loan guarantees without a clear commitment to freeze settlement activity and Israel's strategy regarding settlements.

As for the Palestinians, they did not obtain any commitment on withdrawal from the occupied territories. On the contrary, they and the Arabs are required to make further concessions, such as ending the boycott of Israel and stopping the intifadah. Thus, it seems that the Palestinians will once again be the victims of America's appeasement of Israel!

Al-Husayni Discusses Rabin's Cairo Statements

NC2207144792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory team to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that the Palestinians hope Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's goals and statements will turn into practical steps.

In an exclusive interview with the Egyptian Voice of the Arabs Radio, al-Husayni said there are certain confidence-building measures that he expects the Israeli prime minister to take. These include closing detention camps and jails, discontinuing land confiscation and deportations, and abolishing the exorbitant taxes and other measures which inflict suffering on the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Regarding Rabin's statements in Cairo, al-Husayni said: We are looking to the coming phase with cautious optimism followed by reassuring matters that also include other elements. [sentence as received] This calls for detailed consultations to find out what is behind these statements and whether they are meant for domestic consumption or actually represent basic and irreversible Israeli positions.

The Palestinian official said: We feel that Rabin wants to get on with the negotiations process, while Shamir wants to obstruct it through all possible means.

Al-Husayni said that [U.S. Secretary of State] Baker briefed the Palestinian figures he met in Jerusalem on his talks with Rabin. He [not further specified] does not believe that great progress has been made, because some points remain unclear. This is particularly true with regard to the security and political settlements, a differentiation which we all reject, al-Husayni said.

PNC Official Says Rabin Must Build Trust

NC2207173792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1549 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 22 Jul (MENA)—The Palestinian leadership has asked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to announce Israel's complete readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, stop all Israeli settlement building in the occupied territories, seriously launch the peace process, disarm the settlers and Israeli secret death squads, and release all Palestinian detainees in the occupied territories.

Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], made this statement to a MENA correspondent in reaction to Rabin's remarks at the news conference he held with President Husni Mubarak after the two concluded their talks in Cairo yesterday.

Subayh said that if the Israeli Government takes these measures, it will reveal Rabin's readiness to seriously launch the peace process and stop attempts to divide Arab ranks.

He added that the Palestinian leadership believes Rabin is still talking about generalities and halfhearted positions and that this will not serve the cause of peace. We said: We and the world community need to hear Israel openly saying that it is willing to withdraw from the occupied territories for the sake of a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace, to implement Bush's initiative to exchange land for peace in line with UN resolutions including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, transfer authority to the Palestinian people, and hold legislative elections in the occupied territories under international supervision.

Subayh said these measures will create a regional climate that will contribute to peace, which all the nations of the region including Israel need. He asserted that the Palestinian people are ready for peace in line with the firm resolutions adopted by its various legitimate institutions.

In conclusion, Subayh called on Rabin to seek to create trust among the Palestinians, saying: We have not seen Rabin do anything concrete. Our confidence in Israeli politics is nonexistent as a result of the Likud's actions during the past 15 years. The Palestinian people need to have the trust between them and Rabin's government strengthened.

PLO Plan in Wake of Rabin Victory Reported

TA2107145992 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 20 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] The PLO has drawn up a plan for the period following Yitzhaq Rabin's victory and his assumption of the Israeli premiership. Some of the most prominent points of the plan are:

—Enhancing coordination with Jordan to the highest degree as Jordan is the PLO's partner and the umbrella of the negotiations.

—Improving relations with Syria because it is a major force in the region and because some Palestinian organizations are sponsored by it.

—Moving toward European countries, especially Britain, France, and Germany.

—Striving tirelessly to convince the United States to renew the dialogue with the PLO as that dialogue was suspended and not terminated.

—Instructing activists inside the occupied territories to develop their ties with the Israeli left in a bid to formulate a future relationship that will help accelerate the peace process.

—Working to regain the confidence of the Palestinians inside the occupied territories, ending the negative phenomena, and arranging the Palestinian house.

'Ashrawi on al-Najah Crisis, Rabin Policy

TA2107152292 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 20 Jul 92 p 16

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] Q: What was your reaction to the end of the al-Najah University crisis?

A: Well, it is a very painful end. Deportation in itself, whether by agreement or imposition, is not an acceptable measure in any way. Second, I think the people who accept it, they made the compromise. The six deportees took the decision to prevent a confrontation or deterioration and to release the 4,000 students and the city of Nabulus. One has to be grateful that the price we paid was not greater, in terms of storming the university or causing casualties. In itself, the siege of the university was not acceptable.

Q: Can this case of deporting six "wanted" people be considered as a precedent to deport more?

A: No. It was part of the agreement that agreed-upon deportation for a limited time does not constitute a precedent. It was part of the agreement, the way I understood it, although there were precedents.

Q: Does it reflect a new policy of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the occupied territories?

A: Although agreed-upon deportations have taken place before this incident after trials and as a result of an agreement in a jail center, to have deportations without trial, without evidence—this is unusual. At the same time the fact that they backed down on the list of 19 they had wanted, and that they looked for a compromise, is probably indicative that Rabin has not adopted an all-or-nothing stance.

Q: Do you think Rabin made some sort of concession by not using violence to end the al-Najah crisis, to show a sort of flexibility toward the Palestinians?

A: I think it indicated that he is willing to not resort to violence in the first instance. At least, if there is a way out that is not violent, he took it, knowing that the situation was very volatile and could have caused a tremendous upheaval in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Q: The al-Najah crisis seems to have overshadowed other political developments, such as Rabin's statements at the beginning of the week, especially the invitation to hold peace talks in Jerusalem.

A: Rabin's speech, in a sense—although it had a new tune, a new linguistic style and approach—in terms of substance, it was rather hard line. The problem with negotiations, the problem with the peace process, was not the lack of invitations back and forth. Likud and every other government has already made a point of inviting people for a discussion. The missing ingredient was the fact that the Israelis were not negotiating in the peace process.

The issue is not whether we meet or don't meet, informally or formally, in Jerusalem or outside. The issue is that there are terms of reference, there are requirements for the peace process, and in order to show good faith and seriousness of intent they have to comply with these terms of reference and try to push the peace process forward with concrete stances.

In addition, as Palestinians, we have suspended judgment because we have been looking for concrete measures and steps that signal the beginning of a new phase. Verbal gestures work for public relations, but we need actual gestures in terms of changes in the reality that would indicate a real departure from the old policies and a new one, especially in terms of settlement activities and human rights violations.

In terms of the substance, we were alarmed at the absolutist final position pertaining to "Greater Jerusalem" and the continuation of "security" or "strategic" settlements. To us, all settlements are illegal and must stop. And East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories.

Q: Regarding settlements, what do you think of the decision of the Israeli housing minister to freeze some housing contracts, including some in the occupied territories?

A: The housing minister's decision has to be looked at very carefully. What is happening now with Rabin's speech and everything else is exactly what we warned about. Everybody is going to be so willing to look positively at anything that Rabin says that there will be a receptivity and a positive evaluation without looking at the actual substance and without really being very critical.

If you subject the text to critical scrutiny and to a real analysis, you will find that there is very little of substance pertaining to Rabin's speech.

In terms of the housing minister's decision, it is a decision to freeze all unsigned contracts for a period of one week. It deals with housing in Israel and in the

occupied territories. So it is not something that deals with settlements per se; rather, it is part of the adjustments of the ministry and the stance of the administration. It should not be understood as a freeze of settlements. It is a freeze of new contracts for one week.

Q: So it means nothing for the Palestinians?

A: It means a week's delay in all housing in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Q: Not goodwill?

A: I look at it as an internal matter. They are adjusting their budget because that's what they said they are reviewing—the constant budget. We should not forget that all existing contracts signed are in effect.

Q: The interim period proposed by the Palestinians almost contradicts the one proposed by Rabin. How do you view this?

A: If we had identical views we would not need to negotiate. Of course there are differences in opinion. We view as a positive sign the fact that they are willing to negotiate intensively and continuously in order to have a meaningful transfer of authority. Now this is the positive approach.

Our view has been spelled out by the PISGA (Palestinian Interim Self Government Authority). But it seems to me the basic difference is in the areas of contention, such as so-called security, settlements, foreign relations and bridges. These are the four areas that Rabin mentioned. We are willing to take over all areas of authority and we are willing to negotiate on these four points in order to see what the Israeli obsessions are, but we feel that there has to be a total transfer of authority in these areas.

Q: What about Rabin's rejection of holding legislative elections in the Occupied Territories?

A: His position is between the Likud and the Palestinian position. The Likud wanted municipal elections, we wanted legislative assembly elections. He is calling for general elections that are not municipal, but at the same time that are not legislative, but for administrative purposes. We have not seen his full proposal and it is something that we would have to look at, when they present it during negotiations.

Q: Will the change in the Israeli position bring about a change in the Palestinian position? Will you continue to insist on your previous proposal?

A: The Palestinian position stems from the intrinsic Palestinian rights and needs, and do not vary depending on which government we are negotiating with. But we assume that there is an Israeli position that calls for general elections, which are administrative in nature, and there is a Palestinian position which calls for general political elections for a legislative assembly. We will negotiate when the time comes, and we will study the proposal. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Fatah's Force 17 Dismantled

TA2207133492 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Tunis—A responsible Palestinian source in Tunis yesterday denied allegations by some Western press sources and by the Saudi AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper in its 20 July issue to the effect that president Yasir 'Arafat had ordered the dismantling of "Force-17," which is under the authority of Fatah.

The source said that this report is unfounded and falls within the context of efforts to split the Palestinian ranks at crucial and decisive moments in the history of the Palestinian cause.

The source stressed that the unit is still operating with full efficiency, adding that the Palestinian people's awareness is such that they will not believe these hollow reports.

Messages Sent to Egypt, Syria, Jordan

JN2207171192 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has sent messages to President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, and Jordan's King Husayn on Palestinian (?principles) regarding the peace process so that they can be discussed during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to these countries. This was stated by brother Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council, following the Palestinian leadership's meeting (?yesterday) in Tunis under Palestinian president brother Yasir 'Arafat.

Subayh said that these messages explain the Palestinian position on the Israeli proposals and what has been declared by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after winning the Israeli elections and at his speech before the Knesset after the formation of his cabinet. (?He said) that these messages affirm the need to [word indistinct] Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories, disarm Israeli settlers, and release heroic Palestinian detainees from the occupation's prisons. The messages also demand the Israeli side to [words indistinct] to agree to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Abu-Ala' Meets With French Official in Paris

LD2307114592 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Brother Abu-Ala', member of the Fatah Central Committee and director general of the Economic Affairs and Planning Department, yesterday had an official meeting in Paris with Mr. Serge Boidevaix, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, in the presence

of a number of ministry officials. This was within the framework of the meetings of the French-Palestinian joint committee.

During the meeting, the latest developments of the peace process in the Middle East were discussed, following the latest changes in Israel and the formation of a government by the Labor Party .

Brother Abu-'Ala concentrated on the importance of the role of the European Community in general, and of France in particular, in influencing the forthcoming stages of the peace process.

He also explained the Palestinian viewpoint on the transitional stage and the need to link it to the final solution, represented in self-determination and setting up a state.

The meeting also discussed bilateral Palestinian-French relations and ways of developing them. It discussed France's role in providing economic, technical, and financial aid for building national Palestinian institutions, especially in setting up financial institutions, the commercial seaport at Gaza, the cement factory in Hebron, and the training of Palestinian cadres and technicians, as well as in advancing aid, housing loans, and support for universities and hospitals.

Mr. Boidevaix, for his part, praised the efforts made by the PLO leadership and its positive role in the on-going peace process. He stressed that a solution of the Middle East problem is linked to a solution of the entire Palestinian problem. The French diplomat stressed the importance of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination without any outside interference. He also pointed to the French Government's readiness to play an active role in the coming stages and to offer direct support for building the Palestinian institutions inside the occupied territories.

Algeria

Prime Minister Abdesselam Addresses Nation

LD2207211392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam in Algiers on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] Citizens: I have the pleasure of addressing you for the first time as head of the government following my appointment by the Higher State Council, which is headed by brother Ali Kafi, after the great ordeal experienced by our people and after brother Sid Ahmed Ghozali's resignation from his post.

The treacherous assassination which ended the life of President Mohamed Boudiaf, may God's mercy be upon him, deeply shook the Algerian people and gave rise to a widespread wave of sorrow and great condemnation. Brother and sister citizens, every one of you has felt that through the person of Mohamed Boudiaf, may God's mercy be upon him, the criminal hand aimed at the Algerian nation as a whole and at its most sacred national and moral values, and particularly at the hope that was personified by the deceased for the youth.

On this occasion, allow me to express again with the utmost regret and sincerity our great appreciation and extensive gratitude to the peerless struggler Mohamed Boudiaf, may God's mercy be upon him. That struggler who agreed without hesitation to respond to the call of the nation when it was in danger with the same spirit of devotion which we knew him for on 1 November 1954 [date of the beginning of the war of liberation]. He has now entered the history of this homeland as a martyr of the national cause; a martyr who will always remain a part of the memory of his people.

The example the deceased set in integrity and selflessness in serving the homeland well, God willing, inspire the present and future generations in their struggle to safeguard national honor and independence, and in their aspirations for freedom and progress.

The death of the late chairman created a great national uprising. By mourning Boudiaf, may God have mercy on his soul, the Algerian people proved that they refuse to be deceived and that they are completely committed to the Algeria of dignity and the Algeria of social justice.

Brothers and sisters, as I commence my new job it pleases me to address the highest appreciation to the one who preceded me as the head of government, brother Sid Ahmed Ghozali. He bravely and with self-sacrifice shouldered a very heavy responsibility during a considerably deteriorating situation. On this occasion I would like to praise the efforts he relentlessly exerted, the efforts which were characterized with clarity of vision and worthy patience. I would like also to praise the work his government has carried out. Allow me again to reiterate all this warm appreciation.

I will not forget to address my appreciation and respect to all the security forces—the National People's Army, the National Gendarmerie, and the police authorities for the great efforts they exert day and night to protect the security and safety of the citizens. I bow with humility and respect before the souls of those who fell martyrs for the homeland, whether they were from the National People's Army or from the police units. An end must be put, and quickly, to the aggressive actions against the stability of the state. This depends on putting an end to shedding the blood of Algerians at the hands of other Algerians.

Brothers and sisters, Algeria was distanced during the last decade, and in particular in the period between the death of the late Houari Boumediene and the return of the late Mohamed Boudiaf, in a methodical manner from the principle which had guided its work since the outbreak of the war of liberation and after the onset of the development process following independence. The result of distancing Algeria from the principles of its march was the raping of its future. Throughout this terrible period of our history, the state became exposed to the game of personal interests, deviating from its basic tasks, and in the end our state became the subject of ridicule and scorn. It lost its prestige and ability to play its vital role. The national economy was subjected to an operation of sabotaging its structures and the shaking of its foundations, and this has strongly affected our credibility abroad to the extent that the citizen was made to feel that his dignity was slighted.

Today who among us does not feel that the Algerian people, who are strongly attached to his Arab-Islamic personality and determined to control their fate, have resolved to renew the connection with their authentic values, and have resolved also to obtain the necessary energy to realize their legitimate aspiration for national development and progress in the tradition of struggle and solidarity stemming from the depths of their history? To achieve those objectives, we must all work to restore the prestige of the state and consolidate the position of morals in it. If we achieve this, we will have secured the conditions for the building of a just system that would restore the trust between the state and the citizen and enable our country to recover its credibility and dignity as a fully sovereign state.

Our country, which is aware of the benefits of openness to the outside world, when the necessary conditions are achieved, will be in a better position to continue international cooperation and to consolidate it upon a sound and balanced basis as well as promote the fundamental interest of our people from its dealings with the outside world.

Citizens, all of us ought to wage a strong-willed fight to build an effective economy by taking into consideration changes in today's world and their repercussions. It is a colossal task which necessitates our reliance upon our own resources before anything else and promotion of the potentials of our workers and cadres. Thus, our youth

will have the opportunity to fulfill its right to work; a right which is paramount to self-achievement and to fulfill the national development progam.

This necessary effort, if one wants to be productive, must be made by each one of us. Therefore, it is paramount to mobilize the resources of all economic and social sectors, be it in public or private hands. Everyone is therefore called upon to contribute to the development process.

Each one of you citizens is aware that there is no other way to escape the crisis nor any other way at all to resume progress without the consecration of public life ethics or the creation of a sound political and social atmosphere. In this context, the vital struggle for the future of the country must, therefore, be directed against all sorts of corruption. To this end we are going to carry out a firm struggle against the groups of interest which have corrupted economic life.

Those interest groups should know that all misconduct will be punished in proportion with the seriousness of the ills from which our country is suffering. Let it also be known to those who serve the interests of these groups from within the state organs that they will be punished very severely.

Citizens, government activities come completely within the political plan drawn up by the Higher State Council when it was formed under the leadership of the late Mohamed Boudiaf and which was reiterated anew after his tragic death by brother Ali Kafi, who succeeded him as head of that supreme state institution.

There is no doubt that the efforts dictated by the current situation to every citizen will be very onerous because today, more than at any previous time, we have to impose discipline and sacrifice on ourselves. Every one of us is called upon to shoulder his share of the joint burden or, to use another phrase, the joint mobilization, because the necessary austerity will not have a meaning or effect unless we all share it fairly.

It is impossible to build the basis of true democracy on a foundation of misery and deprivation. We all know that without such vital efforts we will never be able to protect our nation from sinking into sedition, division, chaos, and slavery. Every Algerian, man and woman, is called upon to participate in the work of closing the ranks and uniting the nation. This is in order to be able, through a great national uprising, to victoriously overcome the crisis, to resume our march towards modernization and progress, and to fulfill the legitimate aspirations of our homeland and the great hopes of our people.

I conclude this address by God's words. In the name of God the merciful and compassionate, say: "O my Lord! Let my entry be by the gate of truth and honor; and grant me from Thy presence an authority to aid me." God has spoken the truth. May God guide us all. And say: "Work, soon will God observe your work, and his Apostle, and the believers." [Koranic verses]

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be on you.

Bomb Explodes, Another Defused; No Casualties

LD2207202292 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Two home-made bombs [were found today]—one of them was defused at the Algiers Central Post Office and the second exploded at Riad El Feth [shopping and cultural complex in Algiers] without causing any casualties. Over to you Fatiha Djaidar:

[Djaidar] The place Riad El Feth, on floor 112 [as heard] inside Ibn Zeidoun Hall [movie theater], the time 1615. While viewers were watching a film inside this hall, a loud explosion was heard. This damage [video shows bomb damage] was caused by a home-made bomb which had been planted in the ceiling of the ladies' toilet. This indicates that the bomb was planted by a woman. It is worth mentioning that the mens' toilet was closed. This is what is left of the home-made bomb.

Moreover, it is worth indicating that at around 1300 a citizen phoned the police to inform them about the presence of a home-made bomb at the Central Post Office. The police bomb experts then rushed to the place and defused the bomb.

'Security Man' Shot Dead in Constantine

LD2207131192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpts] A security man was assassinated today in Constantine by persons unknown, who shot him three times. They have still not been captured. The victim, who is 30 years old, was killed at about 0800 at the entrance of the Sidi Rached bridge near the center of Constantine.

In Djelfa Province, Ain Oussera Municipality was the scene of acts of sabotage when a contractor's yard was set on fire. [passage omitted]

There were also acts of sabotage in Constantine when the steel containers of the telephone line distribution points were set on fire. Telephone lines in the area were cut off as a result. [passage omitted]

Reinstatement of Higher Education Ministry Demanded

LD2207135192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The National Union of Algerian Students has expressed its surprise at the abolition of the Ministry of Higher Education, which it considered as a strategic institution which bore responsibility for future challenges, and which has for a long time provided the country with thousands of cadres.

In a statement handed to APS, the union notes that it considers attaching the Ministry of Universities to the

Ministry of National Education—which is still experiencing difficult problems, the latest of which being the baccalaureat scandal—is in reality only a complication, and it is a measure that the union considers a humiliation, contemptuous, and belittling of universities and all academics groups. Therefore, on the eve of preparations for university admission, the union demands the reinstatement of the ministry of universities, and draws the Government's attention to the gravity and ramifications of that measure.

Egypt

Further on Baker Talks With Mubarak 22 Jul

Working Lunch Held

NC2207121092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1154 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during a working lunch at the Republican Palace in al-Qubbah this afternoon.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the working lunch.

Mubarak, Baker Hold News Conference

NC2207135092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a news conference before foreign correspondents following two hours of talks that continued through a working lunch today.

President Mubarak said he discussed the peace process with Baker. He voiced hope that some progress toward peace will be made in the near future.

He stated that all the Arab countries look forward to attaining regional peace and reiterated his assertion that the Arab boycott of Israel will end if Israel stops building settlements.

The president stated that Israel's temporarily halting its settlement program is a good step forward, "but we need more."

He also pointed out that it is necessary to give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin more time, noting that he has only been in his post one week.

Baker announced that, as usual, he has achieved constructive results during his talks with President Mubarak. He said Egypt has a major role to play in attaining regional stability.

He added that Rabin will visit Washington to meet with U.S. President George Bush and that the ongoing discussions with the Israeli Government will continue in order to achieve further progress in the peace process.

Baker thanked President Mubarak for welcoming him to Cairo and for meeting with him when he is busy with the National Day celebrations.

Baker said: We dealt with and discussed the agenda. We thank the president for his understanding. We are used to holding good, constructive meetings. The same thing happened today, especially regarding the peace process. Egypt, naturally, comes first regarding the peace efforts with Israel. It is playing an important role in the peace process and in developing it. This role continues.

Baker shared Mubarak's view that there is a chance to assist the peace process and to push it toward becoming more constructive. He expressed the hope that this soon will be achieved. He said: We discussed this point and other points. Again, I thank the president for receiving us today.

Responding to a question about the peace process' current chances of success, Baker said: No decision has been made. I am moving for the sake of peace and will continue my activity regarding the peace process for several days or weeks. But until we reach specific decisions, I cannot predict what the results will be.

Baker pointed out that his tours might take a long time before specific results are announced.

Asked to comment about certain reports that say specific results have been attained, Baker said it is not possible to answer this question without identifying the sources of these reports. He added that no specific decisions have been made so far, declaring: But we are very active regarding the peace process and hope that this activity will continue.

Answering a question about whether the Arabs have sufficiently contributed to the peace process, President Mubarak said: All the states of the region are looking toward peace and all are prepared to contribute as much as they can.

Answering a question about what more Israel can offer, President Mubarak said: As I said yesterday, what happened is a positive step forward and is in the right direction toward peace. The Israeli prime minister has just been in office for one week. That is why we did not enter into many details with him.

Asked whether what Rabin has offered meets the Arab demands, President Mubarak said: Rabin needs to offer more to convince the Arab states to carry on with the peace process. Stressing again that Rabin has been in office for only one week, President Mubarak said: We cannot ask him to achieve miracles. One week is not enough for any prime minister to arrange everything. We must give him more time.

To a correspondent's question about an issue other than the peace discussions, concerning French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative to hold an international conference to discuss the Yugoslav crisis, Baker said that Mitterrand's initiative to hold an international conference was a proposal made by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which met recently in Munich. He added: If you examine the final statement issued by that conference, you will find a proposal that can serve as framework for an international conference on Yugoslavia.

About the Yugoslav prime minister's initiative for disarmament in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Baker said it is important to focus attention on all initiatives to resolve the conflict in Yugoslavia. He noted that there are important elements in the Yugoslav prime minister's proposals, but he is not acquainted with all the details.

Asked what the situation will be like if Iraq continues to refuse to cooperate with the United Nations, President Mubarak said: We discussed this issue, but I cannot predict what will happen if Iraq fails to respond to UN resolutions. This subject requires further discussion.

Asked whether there has been progress regarding the Palestinians, and if so, what kind of progress and in what direction, Baker said there actually has been progress on this. He noted, however, that he could not determine the direction of that progress and that one must return to the Palestinian side on that matter. He pointed out that the Palestinians announced in a news conference following their meeting with him that they share the U.S. view that there are fruitful opportunities for peace in the context of the proposals submitted by the new Israeli Government, which is focusing on Israel's national needs, not on building settlements, and on satisfying immigrants by permitting immigration.

Asked if Israel's move to halt settlement activity is in return for U.S. guarantees, Baker said: We are still discussing this issue with the Israeli Government. These discussions will be resumed during Rabin's visit to the United States and his meeting with President Bush in early August.

Baker said: So that there would be no misinterpretation of the U.S. position,I met with the Yugoslav [as received] prime minister in Helsinki and told him very clearly that most of the burden and responsibility for what has happened rests on the Serbs. As the Yugoslav prime minister, he must exercise his duty and try to achieve peace, stop armament, and turn over the heavy weapons to the United Nations.

Baker said: Many of the heavy weapons present in the area are being used in Sarajevo. These weapons came to them from the Yugoslav Federal Army. Therefore, there is a lot that the Yugoslav prime minister can do.

Baker said: We must consider Rabin's assurances to me and to President Mubarak that there are significant changes to curb settlement activity in the occupied territories. But no final agreement has been reached on *everything because Rabin has just been in office for one* week.

Asked whether his talks with Rabin were satisfactory, Baker said: They were satisfactory as far as I am concerned. The coming phase will witness significant changes in Israeli settlement activity. This is what I can confirm now. The talks are continuing and will continue until Rabin's meeting with President Bush.

In answer to a similar question about his talks with Rabin, President Mubarak said he agrees with Baker's view on this matter.

Asked if the changes in the Israeli position might lead to a new Arab position, the president stated: "This issue will be discussed in the general context of the peace talks, and I will not go into details."

At the end of the news conference, Baker affirmed that he feels optimistic regarding the reactions of the concerned parties, particularly the Israeli Government's position on the settlements.

He added: We will see a reduction in settlement building. The details will be hammered out during continuing discussions. I can say that a new position on the settlement issue exists and that this satisfies the United States, which, as you know, believes that the settlements hinder peace. By the time the negotiations are resumed, we will see progress on this issue.

Baker added that the basic purpose of his current tour and his meeting with President Mubarak and with Yitzhaq Rabin for the first time in six years is to boost the peace process. He stated that results can only be obtained when the concerned parties themselves sit together around the negotiations table. He announced: I am very optimistic that we have a chance of seeing this.

Baker Meets Musa, Departs 22 Jul

NC2207142992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1421 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Cairo this afternoon following a brief visit of several hours to Egypt.

Baker held a private meeting with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who later saw him off.

Musa Praises Rabin's Settlement-Building Freeze

NC2207063392 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 Jul 92 p 1

[Maha 'Abd-al-Fattah report from Washington]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told AKHBAR AL-YAWM that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to freeze settlement-building is a step in the right direction and reflects a new spirit. He added, however, that his call for an exchange of visits with Arab

leaders is not an initiative in the true sense of the word. An initiative indicates a turning point, such as a declaration of withdrawal, recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination, or a clear acknowledgement of the land-for-peace principle, he added.

Musa Cited on Rabin Visit, Arab Boycott

NC2207165292 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Paris, July 22 (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Egypt will help push forward the Mideast peace process following the paralysis caused by the former Israeli Government led by Yitzhaq Shamir. The visit was very important, Musa said, voicing hope that it would lead to significant results.

In an interview with al-Sharq Radio here, Musa pointed out that the idea of ending the Arab boycott in return for halting settlement-building in the occupied Arab territories was among issues that are currently under discussion.

This idea could be revived if Israel stops settlement-building in the Arab lands, Musa said.

Al-Baz: Israeli Position 'Paves Way' for Progress

NC2207173992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, announced that the position adopted by the new Israeli Government paves the way for further progress in the bilateral and multilateral talks.

Speaking to Egyptian and foreign reporters at the end of the news conference held by President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, al-Baz said: "Although the peace opportunities are limited, there are expectations of making progress."

Rabin's 'Contradictions' on Settlements Questioned

NC2207082192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2136 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—In tomorrow's editorial, the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM welcomes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's decision to freeze settlement-building approved during Shamir's era. The newspaper considers this decision a good omen for the peace talks when they resume.

The newspaper continues: Nevertheless, the situation requires greater clarification, especially regarding the indiscriminate contradictions Rabin has decided on and adopted in dealing with settlements. He has retained the security settlements and shown tolerance for the political ones. This is very difficult to comprehend. Even U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had problems with this. The paper says that a clear decision on freezing settlements is necessary as part of the confidence-building measures needed for the talks to be successful. It adds that the settlement-freezing process must be clear-cut and well-intended. In addition, other processes must be adopted, such as releasing political detainees and ensuring human rights.

Daily Comments on Rabin, Baker Tours

NC2307073692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM states that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Cairo and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of Egypt and the region come within the framework of intensifying efforts now that hopes have been revived for resuming the peace talks on new and objective foundations.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that in his Knesset speech seeking a vote of confidence for a new cabinet, Rabin did not refer to the two most important provisions accepted by the international community and in line with the UN resolutions: exchanging land for peace and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. But the return to talks on new grounds and in a new atmosphere amid determination to continue talks means a successful start to a long path that all parties agreed to follow.

AL-AHRAM asserts that the success of the talks hinges on how much faith the parties have in the possibility of achieving peace out of the conviction that only the principles of peace, if implemented, can create stability and prosperity. Concluding its editorial, the paper says that if the parties keep this faith and conviction of the importance of peace, there will be hope for establishing the pillars of the desired peace that would satisfy the parties and give them their legitimate rights without harming anyone.

Bosnians Welcome Egyptian Troops in UN Force

NC2307095692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0824 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—Bosnia-Hercegovina's President Alija Izetbegovic stated that his country welcomes Egyptian troops' participation in the UN forces that seek to keep peace in Sarajevo.

In an exclusive interview with Voice of the Arabs Radio, he noted that the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina extend every hospitality and appreciation to these troops. He praised Egypt's prominent and positive role in supporting his people's cause.

President Izetbegovic condemned the Serbian Government for constantly violating the cease-fire agreement concluded in London early this week. He stated that his country supports peace and is ready to hold talks on

legitimate and humanitarian bases, provided the republic's sovereignty and independence are respected.

On security in Sarajevo, President Izetbegovic said the London agreement set a date for the cease-fire to go into effect and placed specific positions under UN supervision, but this is yet to be complied with, because Sarajevo Airport sustained a security setback. The president stressed the importance of withdrawing weapons from the areas of conflict and said he was ready to honor the peace agreement.

Izetbegovic called for more humanitarian assistance to his country. He praised the assistance his country received from Saudi Arabia and other Islamic states and added: If we need weapons from the Islamic world, we will ask for them. He said the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina stand fast to defend their right and country. President Izetbegovic stated that he is eager to achieve peace on sound bases, but he added that the Serbian Government does not want this and seeks to violate every agreement reached.

Mubarak Delivers 23 Jul Revolution Address

NC2207201092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0922 GMT 92 22 Jul

[Speech by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak marking the 40th anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution at the National Democratic Party Congress in the Cairo University Auditorium—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Brother citizens: Some 40 years have passed since the outbreak of the glorious July revolution, [applause] during which enormous and numerous changes have occurred. Situations and regimes have changed; philosophies and concepts have fallen; and history has unfolded in an unprecedented way, drawing to a close the experiences of many nations and peoples. Despite these changes, July remained a source of sound values, supporting the national march and inspiring many peoples in their quest to launch into the future. July's value is that it did not belong to one individual or another but to the entire people. True, 'Abd-al-Nasir and his companions sparked the revolution, [applause] but the people made their revolution. Another of its values is that it did not imprison itself behind the walls of doctrines and ideologies, although some people tried to chain it with theoretical thinking that does not correspond to reality. July, which derives its genuine roots from the values and experiences of this people, rejected the chains of dogmas and ideologies, because no human endeavor is above debate or revision. As part of a goal or struggle for power, July was not sudden or unexpected. It was not a sprout without roots that go deep into the homeland's earth but the final episode in a struggle to which a great people had aspired since 'Urabi's [19th century Egyptian leader] movement to make Egypt a homeland for the Egyptians, enjoying dignity, progressing in light of knowledge, and flourishing by the cohesiveness of factions.

July was the final episode of the struggle of a people that looked forward to ridding itself of the siege that the occupation and repression forced on national action to keep the struggle scattered, torn, and unable to reach its goals. July was the life buoy that protected the homeland's unity from a political system that lacked social justice, something that undermined its foundations and shook its pillars. The goals the July revolution offered Egypt were not dogmatic expressions drafted by the July revolutionaries or a theoretical doctrine imposed on Egyptian reality by those who sparked the revolution. They were the goals of the Egyptian struggle's national march, beginning with 'Urabi's famous rebellion at 'Abidin Square [against the Egyptian Khedive] to the calls of Mustafa Kamil, Sa'd Zaghlul, and Mustafa al-Nahhas [prerevolution Egyptian leaders], as much as a reflection of national thought, continuing from Rifa'ah al-Tahtawi and 'Abdallah al-Nadim [Egyptian intellectuals] to the pioneering and great generation that paved the way for July, including Lutfi al-Sayyid, Taha Husayn, al-'Aqqad, al-Hakim, Salamah Musa, Mandur [Egyptian writers], and other symbols of Egyptian culture, who cleared the Egyptian mind of the clouds of despotism to enable it to find the way to its national salvation.

The July revolution's principles demonstrate the values of social justice; the spread of education throughout Egypt; agricultural reform; the rejection of alliances; Egypt's neutrality among the world's blocs and powers; independent national decisions; and building a strong army. These are the values of Egyptian struggle, which have nestled in the national conscience through the course of struggle up to our age.

The Egyptian people made their revolution. They formulated its major goals. They, from the very beginning, defined its nature: A white revolution that does not destroy or burn. It does not use violence as a means of change. It rejects class struggle and tries as hard as it can to denude it of possibilities of clash. It distinguishes itself from other revolutions with clear dividing lines that reflect the nature of the Egyptian people, respect religions, urge belief, and reject bloody struggle.

These great people are the same people who also corrected the mistakes of their revolution. They resisted those calling for violence, who tried to divert the revolution's path by emphasizing the factors of class conflict and by urging greater violence, so that the revolution could proceed, free of enemies' and opponents' malice. The people resisted the attempts of the radicals among the revolution supporters who wanted to turn it into a niche of dogma that could not be discussed or disputed. They chose only a narrow circle of professionals and followers who wanted to change the July revolution concepts into holy monuments that could not be profaned.

The people protected their revolution from the calls of fanaticism and extremism. Those who were extreme tried to deny the revolution's mistakes and negative aspects. They claimed that everything that occurred during the revolution era was good, above error or defect. These are elements that contradict the nature of any humanitarian action, however noble its goals or lofty its objectives and targets.

The people resisted the remnants of the beneficiaries who attempted to impose their lessons on the people. They considered every reform a backward step because all they understood of the revolution was that it imposes lessons, removes law, fragments the people, and puts its youth and intelligentsia into categories.

The people resisted all these elements while righting their course. They removed the experimental mistakes and human errors. They distinguished between principles entrenched in the national conscience and incidental changes that cannot suit every circumstance. They breathed new breath into the revolution to enable it to remain a permanent source of righteous values that strengthen the might of the national march and protect it during every stage of the struggle.

Despite the changes, the July revolution remains a source of cherished values that strengthen national belonging and safeguard the unity of the homeland from fragmentation and division. It provides equal opportunities to every citizen without discrimination by creed, religion, or social status. Despite the changes, the July revolution remains a source of all the values that preserve Egypt's pioneering role: A strong country with Egyptian identity, Arab belonging, and international concerns. A strong national Army protects its just aims. Knowledge prospers in this country, where beliefs have a rising status. The country protects its national role out of its loyalty to its Arab nation and takes positions supporting principles when higher national interests require these positions.

These are the firm July revolution principles that are embedded in Egypt's national conscience. There are changes that could be right or wrong or that could accompany circumstances at a given time. If these circumstances change, adherence to principles becomes a burden on the homeland's progress and goals.

Dear brothers and sisters, it is strange that some people ignore these facts despite their clarity. It is strange that they ignore the people's role in making their revolution, defining its goals, and rectifying its course. They intend to keep the July revolution alive in the minds of our new generations as a mere gamble that 'Abd-al-Nasir and his friends made on the history of Egypt's national struggle. Those who are still motivated by old notions that ought to have been shelved are damaging the Egyptian people's struggle. [applause] They are damaging the struggle of the Egyptian people, who started a magnificent march, backing the Army's movement, turning their action into a unique revolution in the history of human revolutions—a white revolution where the people unite with their armed forces, a revolution of a civilized course that will remain a celebration of dignity and freedom and a source of pride and respect for every Egyptian. [applause]

People throughout Egypt have voiced their tumultuous support for the Army's activities, because they realize, through their sharp sense and long struggle, that this dedicated group that sparked the revolution did so because the homeland was facing a deadlock with no way out but complete change. They removed from their march a wall that diverted the course of the national movement into side issues with no connection with the nation's or masses' interests.

On 23 July, the people did not move by accident or coincidence. They moved to save their interests from a torn and ragged reality. They wanted to get out of the chaos they were in. Occupation and coercion were conspiring over their national objectives. The parties were occupied with their own disputes and incapable of uniting their efforts to confront the demands of national independence. The vast majority were groaning under the burden of deprivation and suffering. They felt their interests being squandered and their rights usurped. Society was boiling under a tumultuous revolution awaiting a spark to light it and remove the obstacles and stumbling blocks in the way of the national course.

Brothers and sisters, on the 40th anniversary of the 23 July revolution, we remember the immortal leader, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, [applause] who sparked the revolution. We greet his comrades, who carried their souls on their shoulders on 23 July to become the glorious revolution's pioneers. [applause] This revolution raised the banners of pride and dignity; forced imperialism to leave the homeland's soil; changed the face of Egyptian life; restored the majority's rights, taken from them by repression and exploitation; established a major industrial base in the Nile valley; preserved Egypt's pioneering role; and built a strong national Army, Egypt's shield and bastion and the honest guardian of its soil, heritage, and sanctities. We greet the heroic members of the Armed Forces, [applause] who sacrificed their chaste souls for Egypt's sake through the ages and who are continuing the march of sacrifice. This is their pledge and oath until eternity. We also greet this great people, without whom the 23 July revolution would not have shone benevolently on Egypt and radiated beyond the borders, spreading the banners of independence in every Arab country, illuminating the torch of freedom in the Third World and raising the flags of liberation in Asia and Africa. A single glance at our Arab homeland and the Third World reveals the depth of the great impact the 23 July revolution had on our modern world as it folded away the age of imperialism forever.

Brothers and sisters, the 23 July revolution faced immense and numerous challenges and committed mistakes that perhaps could have been avoided. Ultimately,

it realized magnificent historic achievements that no fair-minded person can ignore. The difference in Egypt's situation before and after the 23 July revolution is clear. The 23 July revolution marked the beginning of a national Egyptian Government, ending centuries of foreign control over the country's fate and destiny. The pseudoindependence was shown by the occupation force's presence on the homeland's soil and the daily blatant foreign intervention in Egypt's life. History does not squander the value of great revolutions just because they erred in some of their options. A revolution is ultimately a great human action opening the doors of change to peoples who had found every door closed, enabling them to build a new phase on the ruins of old conditions that could not continue or be reformed.

The French Revolution and its value to human history are not undermined by its committing excesses. Despite these, the French Revolution opened a new age for mankind, an age that established freedom, brotherhood, and equality as legitimate rights for peoples who suffered tyranny and slavery. If the Egyptian revolution committed some mistakes and excesses, it does not belittle its value for national or human history. It opened a new age that laid out dignity, social justice, comprehensive development, and the rights of the majority as basic conditions for national rule. It was also the beginning of a national liberation movement that spread to several Third World states that have now won independence and freedom.

I am not one of those people who elevate the deeds of mankind, however great or magnificent, to the level of holiness, because all men err and nobody is infallible. Any human experiment is, in the final analysis, the culmination of human effort that could err or could not. The moral is in the final result. The glorious July revolution's gains were great by any standards, despite the major errors. [applause]

The July revolution was greater than others in righting itself, because it did not belong to one person or group of people. It did not insulate itself behind the fences of theories, doctrines, and ideologies. The circumstances and requirements of social change imposed many extraordinary measures on the July revolution, which found its umbrella in revolutionary legitimacy. President 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule resulted in the need to codify the revolution, remove the state of fear, and restore respect to the sovereignty of the law. President al-Sadat came along to change these slogans. [applause] President al-Sadat made these slogans a practical reality. He put an end to patrols, restored respect to national capitalism, announced the end of single-party control, and reorganized events in Egypt to confront new world changes the beginnings of which were still emerging on the horizon. The outside challenges that confronted the July revolution also imposed a series of fierce battles, the harshest of which was the June 1967 defeat. The people's unity with their Armed Forces realized a glorious victory in October 1973. [applause and chanting]

The October victory restored respect for national dignity. It affirmed the glory and capability of the Egyptian military. It established the climate for the possibility of establishing a just peace on equal bases that consider the rights of all parties, foremost of which are the Palestinian people.

I am not one of those who elevate the works of man, however great, to the status of holiness, which is for God alone. We are, in the final analysis, human beings prone to errors. I am not one of those who abuse their right to criticize or tighten the scope of criticism, thus demanding that some people or activities are exempt from accountability and higher reference. I am confused by this unjust policy that is moved by personal motivation; it discredits the brilliant aspects of some national leaders who gave life and effort to Egypt and who wanted nothing but the homeland's greatness. The issue is not restricted to 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat, who were subjected to an unjust campaign that lacked fairness and objective vision.

[Nationalist Movement] leaders Ahmad 'Urabi, Mustafa Kamil, Sa'd Zaghlul, and Mustafa al-Nahhas [applause] also faced similar unjust campaigns that lacked objectivity and justice and were measured against oppressive standards that do not consider the historic circumstances, the existing challenges, and the balance of power. They waste the final account of gains and losses by concentrating on scattered or select events, despite the final account always being added to the assets of the national movement and the rights of the Egyptian people. [chants]

Brothers and sisters, I do not know what is left for us if we knowingly or unknowingly put down prominent national figures and distinguished leaders who have devoted their entire life to national action. I really do not know what values are left for us to give to our new generations if we do not maintain the position of these figures in the memories of the younger generations, which are looking for examples and models to follow and for sources of pride and honor in national history. [applause]

The record of history, brothers and sisters, can only be made by those with unbiased consciences and enlightened minds. History is not just a record of scattered or selected events that are used for selfish reasons that lack any awareness of national responsibility and a comprehensive realization of all the elements of success and failure and lack, in the first place, a correct interpretation of the meaning of success and failure within the framework of a continuously linked process, the results of which also are interrelated. Had we not had Ahmad 'Urabi, we would not have had Sa'd Zaghlul; Had we not had Sa'd Zaghlul, we would not have had 'Abd-al-Nasir; we would not have had al-Sadat, and we would not have had Egypt as it is today—a strong state with responsibility and a role, with a national government, opening the widest doors to sound democratic participation; building for the future in a race for time; opening its

schools for every boy and girl, its integrity and unity guarded by social justice and faith in one God and a country for all.

Compatriots, our celebration of the 40th anniversary of the July revolution takes place as we are embarking on a new Five-Year Plan, designed to provide the necessary factors for the development of the Egyptian economy. This comes when we are about to complete the stage of reform with all its urgent requirements and its enormous, austere difficulties. Our society's climate has been prepared for stable and balanced relations after the chronic defect in the structure of the Egyptian economy has been corrected; the economy's productive capacities have been doubled; the factors of confidence in the economy's ability to fulfill the continuous development demands without total dependence on foreign loans have increased; and the relationship between work and production has been rearranged in a manner that ensures a balance of interest among all the segments of society, maintains social stability, and guarantees that doors will be open to everyone who wants to contribute or participate.

Proof of the colossal effort Egypt currently is making can now be seen throughout the country: in the newly reclaimed land that has turned from desert into green fields; in the new cities replete with modern industries with different production capacities; in the new residential neighborhoods in every city and district; in the infrastructure, the entire networks of which have been revamped; and in tourism, which is prospering remarkably. These constitute genuine proof, and no one can ignore it except those who are sick, blind, or hopeless, who are displeased when they see progress. No one can ignore this proof except the forces of darkness that hate for light to prevail, and the philosophers of impotence who attack the people's and the country's efforts and who are busy running after their own selfish interests without paying any attention to the interests of this country.

Proof of the colossal effort that we have exerted grows daily, along with our hope that, through its new Five-Year Plan, Egypt will be able to achieve balance between wages and prices and raise the standard of services, especially relating to health and education, so that we can keep pace with our accelerating population rate. This population rate still constitutes an element of pressure that diverts our resources from development. It also is hoped that through the new Five-Year Plan, Egypt will be able to deal with the problems of unemployment by creating new and genuine jobs—jobs that would add to the strength of the work force and raise the productive capability of society—and not indiscriminate government jobs, which in reality constitute a type of veiled unemployment.

Egypt's achievements in recent years are a great leap that would not have been possible without society's contributions and individual initiatives carried out in a stable and secure atmosphere. This atmosphere restored confidence, opened the doors, and removed the obstacles to serious investors and provided opportunities for those who wish to participate or contribute and whose top priority is the promotion of national production. The increase of national savings in Egyptian banks; the steady rise in the size of investment; the high-quality diversification in the patterns of production; the constant growth in agricultural crops; and the great boom in tourism would not have been achieved without a stable atmosphere. This atmosphere made every citizen, producer, and investor feel secure about his future, offspring, and funds.

Brothers and sisters, stability is the mainstay of progress; without it, the society will exhaust its efforts in endless labyrinths. There can be no investment, agriculture, industry, tourism, or new jobs without a stable and secure atmosphere that spurs everyone to participate and build. I say this in order to remind and also warn a group of Egypt's sons, who should have dedicated all their efforts and resources to serving the redeemed homeland and who should have devoted their ideology and movement to the society's benefit. Instead, this group has abandoned its national duty and deserted the march of national offering. It has sowed corruption on earth, terrorized peaceful citizens, and killed people. It has tried to gag mouths, suppress opinion, and sequester freedom. It has violated laws and norms that are the solid foundation on which Egyptian society has been established over the centuries. It has applied the law of the jungle in a state that has been a precursor in establishing a society of goodness and justice. This group has ended up becoming a source of threat to the society and of terrorism to the citizens. This situation must not exist and will not exist.

The advocates of terrorism want to strike a blow to the homeland's stability and prosperity, so that there will be no investment or production; the economy and agriculture will be retarded; tourism will evaporate; employment opportunities will vanish for millions of our homeland's sons; and we will return to the vicious circle of suffering from a lack of revenues, an absence of investment, escalation of our economic problems, and increased unemployment. We would then give up hope of finding a way out of this deadlock. We will not allow the return of such a situation because it is contrary to what we have promised God and the people ever since we assumed power. This situation represents a flagrant challenge to all that our toiling people have achieved with their sweat, tears, suffering, great sacrifices, and patience. Only a noble people with a long history of civilization could have waged such a battle.

Undoubtedly, confrontation of this phenomenon is a collective responsibility, regardless of our posts. If policemen share the greater burden in view of their responsibility to safeguard security and spread tranquility in Egypt, theirs is a noble work which deserves our appreciation and gratitude. The valiant policemen are performing their duty with bravery and fortitude,

ignoring danger and threats. This is because national security is a matter of existence and is not a luxury which can be met with leniency or neglected.

Therefore, the confrontation is not confined to security measures or searches carried out by the police forces. It is a comprehensive and multifaceted process in which every citizen shoulders a bit of responsibility and a share of constant activity, capable of dealing with the situation with firmness and of taking the initiative instead of reacting to events.

Brothers and sisters, in my estimation a large part of this responsibility rests on the political organizations, especially their leaders and activists, who have a special responsibility in the march of national action. I believe I express a national consensus when I say that the political forces and parties in this country can play an active role and can prevail upon the ordinary citizens in the villages and towns and in the most remote spots. The societies in all these areas can form a formidable barrier against the logic of terrorism and its evil activities instead of being a theater for terrorist and subversive acts.

No single political party can possibly shoulder this responsibility. All political parties were established on the basis of their competence to play a role in guiding political activity in the country with the aim of protecting the Constitution and the law, preserving public order, defending the homeland's security at home and abroad, and safeguarding national action from threats. If all political parties are demanding their right to share in power, they must bear their share of responsibility.

We are saying this because some who profess patriotism and democracy disregard this situation and hasten to offer excuses and false arguments in order to defend, either openly or implicitly, the terrorists' acts of sabotage. This is disgraceful behavior and an odious sin that is unbecoming of an Egyptian who offers to shoulder responsibility and perform national action.

Furthermore, various media are responsible for combating this situation. The media are the citizen's way of knowing the facts and drawing conclusions. They are the eye with which he sees numerous things and the energy which shapes his conscience, values, and concepts.

Hence it is the responsibility of every citizen, father, family, political party, and intellectual. It is the responsibility of the entire homeland, because between progress and ruination there can be no choice. There can no choice between democracy and chaos. There can be no choice between a straying, iniquitous minority and the nation's good.

Brothers, sisters, I only fear for the homeland. I do not see politics or power as a profession. It is the responsibility entrusted to me and the honor of my conscience that compels me to safeguard the homeland's security and stability until Egypt attains prosperity and progress. The people have found their way. The people have learned that the first elements of progress are stability and true democracy. Without these things, our national effort is wasted on secondary issues that neither fulfill our goals nor ward off danger. Stability cannot be established through the efforts of a small group of citizens in certain executive positions. It can only be established through a joint effort to contain this ongoing danger, protect Egypt from its evils and sins, and safeguard the progress of reconstruction and growth. True democracy does not come from chaos or false one-upmanship. True democracy does not rest on slogans that are empty of any significant content when the situation requires a responsible stand. The issue now is not one of opposition and government, it is an issue of the homeland. The homeland is undergoing a crucial test that has been forced upon it at a time when it is exerting all its efforts to escape the bottleneck, overcome its economic difficulties, and realize its goal of providing a good life for future generations. We are confronting a situation that requires alertness, conscious knowledge of its repercussions, and the courage to protect the homeland's future and supreme interests.

The options are unambiguously clear. The boundaries between white and black are clear-cut. God has promised Egypt—and His promise is true—that it will be a secure country. God willing, it will be a perfectly secure country. It will be a stable homeland that gathers all its citizens under its wing, drawing strength from its national unity and social peace, enlightened by tolerant faith and the light of reason, working for the good of future generations, and having no place for the advocates of darkness and sedition and the enemies of thought and freedom. I ask God Almighty to guide us to the path of reason, establish righteousness between us and our people, and lead us always to adopt the right position. I ask Him to inspire us with the right choices and give a sound outlook and good intentions. I ask Him to strengthen us in making the proper choice. God is our best support. Peace and God's mercy be on you. [applause]

'Arafat Cables Mubarak Marking 23 Jul Revolution

NC2207053092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1826 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat sent a cable of congratulations to President Husni Mubarak marking Egypt's celebration of its great 23 July revolution. In the cable, he expressed his heartfelt greetings to the Arab Republic of Egypt and wished it continuous progress and prosperity.

'Arafat affirmed that the glorious 23 July revolution, which is considered an important turning point in the history of Egypt and the Arab nation, continues to be a source of inspiration and strong motivation to continue the historic struggle to realize a prosperous and honorable future that guarantees freedom, dignity, and independence for coming generations.

The Palestinian president expressed his deep thanks to Egypt—leadership, government, and people—for its

continuous support of the Palestinian people's just cause, continuing struggle for liberation, and blessed national intifadah, which continues with great determination and persistence under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to end the Israeli occupation of their land and shrines and establish just and permanent peace in the Arab region. Such peace will guarantee for the Palestinian people the restoration and practice of their national inalienable rights, foremost of which is their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat expressed his hope that efforts will continue to unify the Arab nation, unite its word, and make it rise above disputes so that it can confront the rapid international changes and current challenges, play its role, and constructively participate in forming the new world order in a way befitting its glorious humanitarian and cultural achievements throughout the ages. He said the realization of this noble goal constitutes the biggest support for the Palestinian people and bolsters their confidence in the inevitability of victory and the rescue of Islam's holy city from the grip of the Israeli occupation.

Sudan

SPLA Claims To Down Government MiG-23

AB2207183092 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Jul 92

[From the "African News"]

[Text] Sudanese rebels say they have shot down a government military aircraft, a MiG-23, and a helicopter. A spokesman for the rebel group, led by the founder of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, Colonel John Garang, said in the Kenyan capital Nairobi that the aircraft were destroyed on Sunday [19 July], near the southern town of Torit.

There has been no independent confirmation of the report.

Government Using UN Flights to Transports Troops

AB2107150092 Paris AFP in English 1445 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Khartoum, July 21 (AFP) - The United Nations has stopped relief flights from here to southern Sudan because the government used one of the planes for a week to transport troops and military equipment, reliable sources said here on Tuesday [21 July].

The sources said the decision to halt Operation Lifeline Sudan was taken last Friday.

The airlift from Khartoum has been supplying food to refugees and people displaced by the civil war waged in the south since 1983 between government troops and the rebel Sudan[ese] People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Witnesses reported seeing Sudanese soldiers board a U.N.-marked Ilyushin-76 chartered from a company in the ex-Soviet Union and flown by a Russian crew.

U.N. sources said it first happened about 10 days ago. The violation of international conventions was immediately brought to the attention of the Sudanese authorities, who apologised and said it would not recur, the sources said.

But up until the end of last week the plane was still being used once or twice a day by the military for flights to Juba, the capital of south Sudan besieged by the SPLA for many months, the sources said.

U.N. personnel on Sunday went out to wash off the U.N. markings from the Ilyushin. Juba is under regular shelling from surrounding SPLA positions. The army's use of U.N.-marked planes could give the guerrillas a "good excuse" to shoot one down, U.N. sources feared.

'Aziz Holds Press Conference on UN Team

JN2307094792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0926 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has said that Iraq will not concede its sovereignty, will not accept any insult, will not allow the inspection teams to threaten its national security, and will not allow the inspection teams or any other person affiliated with the United Nations to interfere in its internal affairs. 'Aziz added: On this basis, Iraq deals with the special committee and with the UN agencies. Tariq 'Aziz said at a press conference today: Had the Security Council adopted any acceptable stand vis-a-vis Iraq the problem of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry would not have occurred. He said that the inspection of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry is part of two major issues—first, continuing the imposition of the unjust blockade on the people of Iraq, and second, the Security Council's stand with regard to respecting Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, not interfering in its internal affairs, and respecting its legitimate interests.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: All the threats, and all they are doing, will not change Iraq's stand, because this stand is based on legitimacy and the principles of sovereignty and regional security. He said that Iraq will not concede these principles. He added that despite all difficult circumstances, Iraq will not concede, in any way, on its sovereignty and dignity as an independent state that has its dignity.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq adheres to its rejection of any request that could entail an insult to Iraq and (?its sovereignty). He said that this is a firm stand [words indistinct] on such a stand, the people of Iraq and (?the leadership) in Iraq are ready to confront the results.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: [passage indistinct] in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 687.

'Aziz added: When we allow a visit to and an inspection of a center covered by the above resolution, the visit should not be for interference but for exploration. If the inspection teams want to know if Iraq possesses prohibited weapons, their mission must stop at this line. 'Aziz also added that this story is an American attempt to exploit the UN's [word indistinct] of the special committee in order to direct an insult at Iraq and that all the previous and current attempts were and are led personally by Americans, beginning with the well-known attempts of David Kay. 'Aziz said: My statement that he is a CIA agent has been corroborated, his history is now known, and he has worked for many years in the service of the CIA. Moreover, the head of the present team, Karen Jansen, holds the rank of major in the U.S. Army. When she left Baghdad for Bahrain she said that she did not participate in the war against Iraq but that she would have been proud to have taken part in it. 'Aziz said that the current head of the inspection team, Mark Silver, is also an American.

The deputy prime minister noted his visit to New York last March and the meetings he held at the Security Council. He said: Our stand was very clear. We said before the Security Council that we are ready to implement Resolution 687 and to cooperate with the Council and the special committee to implement the abovementioned resolution, but on the basis of respecting Iraq's sovereignty, non-interference in its internal affairs, and on the basis of respecting its legitimate right to continue the industrial and scientific [word indistinct] in the fields that are not banned by the abovementioned resolution.

'Aziz said: On this basis, (?we accepted the implementation). However, we will resist and reject any attempt to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty and dignity, any interference in its internal affairs, and any threats to its internal security. We communicated this to the Security Council in a clear-cut language. After our return from New York, we continued the cooperation.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the reasons for the imposition of sanctions on Iraq no longer exist. However, the sanctions continued pursuant to the will of America and Britain.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that the problem is not with the Security Council, but with three colonialist countries which now control the Security Council. These countries are (?France), Britain, and America. [passage indistinct]

[passage indistinct] 'Aziz questioned the sense of inventing these issues with Iraq despite the fact that the inspection teams [several words indistinct] the embargo against Iraq and the continuous attempts to undermine Iraqi sovereignty, interfere in its affairs, and threaten its security.

'Aziz said that this situation is not in harmony with the legal contents of Security Council resolutions.

'Aziz said that this situation is imposed by certain member states of the Council especially the United States and Britain. He said: As I have indicated, the aim is to undermine internal security in Iraq which is the declared aim of U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major.

In this regard, 'Aziz noted that the number of teams that visited Iraq since June 1991 reached 41 and that they visited 500 sites in addition to making 2,600 flights by [word indistinct) planes and 1,200 hours [word indistinct] by the U-2 spy planes, which are still continuing, thus making it clear that the Security Council has not been sincere in its resolutions. Otherwise how can we explain the inspection missions which are supposed to have ended?

'Aziz said: The special committee asked the competent Iraqi authorities to present a comprehensive report on the armaments program pertaining to Resolution 687

and two reports have been submitted; the first in the field of missiles, chemical, and bacteriological weapons, and the second in the field of energy. During that period we held direct talks with the Security Council through our permanent representative in New York and in an indirect way through a UN Security Council member. I visited this member state and asked that this state convey a letter from Iraq to the Council, especially the influential member states. The substance of the letter is that Iraq had carried out its commitments. We gave as examples destroying the prohibited weapons, extending information, and destroying factories and equipment which the committee said was related to Resolution 687 and that work was underway to complete the implementation, and that the Iraqi authorities were extending the required facilities. However, the states concerned remained silent on this letter.

'Aziz added that before the inspection team asked to visit the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building, we had been preparing a new letter addressed to the UN secretary general and through him to the Council bearing the same contents of the previous letter that we conveyed to the Council through one its member states. This letter was sent on 12 July and you have seen its contents. Briefly, the letter says that Iraq has carried out most of its commitments and the Council has to carry out its commitments. This is a main issue: The Council's stands toward Iraq, the embargo, the encroachment on Iraqi sovereignty, dignity, and internal security, and interference in its internal affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz also said: When Ekeus came to Baghdad, he met with the minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign minister and held the final meeting with me. I told him that I had been acquainted with his meetings with the minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign minister and that once again, I would sum up the Iraqi Government's position. I told him: We rejected a visit to and inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation because it is a symbol of the country's sovereignty. However, we allowed journalists to enter the building and take photographs and we also allowed diplomats in Baghdad to enter it. In order to prove this fact, I suggest that we select a number of experts from neutral and nonaligned countries such as India, China, Austria, Switzerland, and others, which have experts of this kind, and allow them to enter the building and open everything in it. He added: The reason for this proposal is to emphasize that the building does not contain any prohibited material and to make sure that the mission of this committee will not be affected by the Special Commission. We reject the loose interpretation of the Special Commission, which says that it has authorized the team to visit any place. We told them they could visit a camp, factory, or industrial warehouse related to areas covered by Resolution 687, but the inspection team has no right to visit and inspect the Culture and Information Ministry building.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that this Iraqi position is not new because it was confirmed before the Security Council in clear language and that we will not accept inspection in this way.

Tariq 'Aziz asserted that Iraq rejects the interference visits made by inspection teams and accepts the exploration visits meant to familiarize and ascertain whether or not Iraq has banned weapons or materiel related to these weapons.

'Aziz added: We view the whole affair as an attempt, by the United States in particular, to use the UN organs and the Special Committee to insult Iraq. It is a well known fact that previous attempts made in this regard, as well as attempts currently under way, are being led by Americans, beginning with the notorious attempts of David Kay. The statement I made in this very hall, to the effect that he is a CIA agent, was confirmed after his history was published, and also after it was revealed that he had served that intelligence agency. With regard to the head of team no. 39, it is U.S. Army Major Karen Jansen. After she left Baghdad, she said in Bahrain that she did not take part in the war against Iraq, but that she would have been proud to have done so.

'Aziz went on to say: The current team leader, Mr. Mark Silver, is also an American. Yesterday, he decided that the team should leave its location outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. They informed us that the reason for their departure was a fear of being exposed to attack. For the Iraqi security authorities to allow a man to come close to this inspector and intervene, only after the inspector attempted to defend himself, is something we deem strange.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that the committee issued a statement, the preamble of which spoke of the alleged threats posed to the team by the masses. The statement added that this morning, a serious incident took place. While a Special Committee inspector was sitting inside his car, a man attempted to stab him with a sharp instrument, and that the inspector attempted to defend himself, 'Aziz said.

'Aziz continued: My information on this incident, which was obtained from diplomatic sources, confirms that the decision to withdrawal was made in New York and not in Baghdad. On the night preceding this incident, which took place last night, team leader Mark Silver contacted the competent Iraqi authorities and asked to return to the site where the team was located. He demanded that what he termed protection be enhanced. We informed him that their return to the site is their own business and that Iraqi protection measures are adequate.

Tariq 'Aziz wondered: What can we conclude from this story if the Special Commission has information that the building contains prohibited material? Tariq 'Aziz added: If there are indeed prohibited materials there, why did they leave the building yesterday morning and then demand to return?

He said: They have not yet returned to the building. This would give us enough time to remove the suspected material they want to inspect. So, why do they ask once again to be allowed to enter and inspect the building if the purpose is to seize such materials, at a time when their absence from the building makes such a demand pointless?

The purpose, he said, is neither technical nor practical, and if the purpose had been technical or practical, they would not have left the site for an entire day.

Tariq 'Aziz touched on his visit to New York and the talks he held with officials from the Special Commission. He said: During that visit, we informed the Special Commission that if it uses the American U-2 planes for purposes of technical aerial surveys, we in Iraq will be prepared to offer a plane flown by a Russian, an Indian, or a Chinese pilot in case the plane is a MiG. But, he said, if the plane is a Mirage or another Western plane, it will be flown by a pilot from a country that does not harbor hostile intentions toward Iraq. What are the American U-2's looking for? It is not looking for what the Special Commission wants but for information required by U.S. intelligence organizations. Tariq 'Aziz wondered: Is the information obtained by the inspection teams and pilots sent to the Special Commission or to Washington? It is clear, and there is information that the head of the inspection team has used communication devices to convey information [to Washington] before sending it to [UN Secretary General] Butrus Ghali.

Responding to a reporter's question regarding Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission, Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that we did not turn down any of the inspection teams' demands to visit industrial sites, warehouses, and scientific buildings. Logically, buildings of this kind have nothing to do with Resolution 687. Therefore, we will not allow this team to visit such buildings. He pointed out that Iraq allowed the aforementioned team to visit eight [word indistinct] sites and that it did not reject any demand, but that it will not tolerate any insult to the country's dignity and sovereignty.

Tariq 'Aziz spoke about the [word indistinct] memorandum of understanding with the United Nations. He said that there are more than 410 persons on the UN teams and their presence since the beginning of the year has cost $18 million of the $41 million originally set as the budget of this memorandum.

'Aziz wondered what assistance the Iraqi people have received under this memorandum of understanding. He said: These guards belonging to the United Nations have spent $18 million. I discussed this issue with Otelli [name as received] and with Ambassador Eliasson in New York. The UN statement says that Iraq refuses and does not allow humanitarian assistance to reach the Iraqi people. The purpose of such a statement is to imply that the United Nations supplies the Iraqi people with food assistance. The is not the truth. They are carrying out more of a propaganda role than a real role of supporting the Iraqi people and they clearly differentiate between inspection activities and UN activities.

Tariq 'Aziz went on to say: You have activities of agencies [words indistinct] UNICEF [words indistinct] the Red Cross.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed that the issue in question is not about the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation but about the UN Security Council's position toward Iraq, its people, and the state of Iraq. He explained that there are two main fields. The first consists of sanctions and the second [word indistinct] sovereignty, dignity, interference, and local security. The sanctions were imposed for certain reasons which no longer exist. If we go back to the resolutions imposing sanctions on 6 August 1990, which were based on Resolution 660, we see that the situation that existed then no longer exists.

Speaking about the position of UN Security Council member states, Tariq 'Aziz described these stands as biased. He said: Through the UN Security Council, they want to impose their political will on all the UN Security Council members to indefinitely maintain the sanctions. He said: When we went to the United States in March and discussed this issue with the UN Security Council, we told the Council: We should reach an understanding between Iraq and you. We say that we have implemented the UN Security Council resolutions and we ask you to set a fair rate of how much was implemented and this is a very legitimate thing because it is directly linked to the life of the Iraqi people, such as children's milk. We are not asking for handouts when we ask for the fulfillment of such needs. We are asking for the fulfillment of the Iraqi people's humanitarian needs. I do not expect that at this time the UN Security Council would change its stand, or rearrange the sanctions. They say that medicine and food are available and this is not completely true.

Tariq 'Aziz then discussed obstacles placed by the United States and the United Kingdom blocking the dispatch of food and medicine consignments to the Iraqi people. He said that they had not given permission for medicines to be sent to Iraq. They also banned the dispatch of flour. We say: Who dictates such things? Is is Venezuela, or maybe Morocco? No, they are the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.

Tariq 'Aziz referred to reconnaissance sorties flown by U-2 planes and to the Iraqi proposal for replacing them. He said that this proposal was rejected not because it is not practical, or illogical. He affirmed that the U-2 missions have nothing to do with Resolution 687. These planes fly over places where they assume the Iraqi leadership is located.

'Aziz added: Let us assume that an Indian pilot, who is a fair and honest pilot, and who flies, for example, a MiG and they task him to fly one, two, ten, or 20 missions. However, he will not accept the mission of locating the Iraqi leadership. He will tell them: That is not my job.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the equipment on the U-2 plane is used for espionage monitoring by the U.S. and British intelligence services, or for any other intelligence service for that matter.

In reply to a question regarding Iraq's diplomatic moves given the present circumstances, Tariq 'Aziz said that the Foreign Ministry is holding extensive contacts with our brother Arabs to explain our stand as clearly as possible.

At the conclusion of the press conference, the deputy prime minister affirmed that Iraq will not give up its sovereignty and dignity, no matter what the threats.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, also spoke about several topics related to the inspection teams, the U-2 planes, and the suspect role they undertake. He said: Ekeus admitted that the information recorded by the U.S. planes goes first to private laboratories and quarters, after which the U.S. provides him with a copy of the information but without going into detail. Al-Sahhaf said: I asked him whether he gets all the information. He said that no one can confirm this.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, continued: There are many examples that we can cite which are no less credible than those noted by the deputy prime minister, including, for example, a case in which an Iraqi merchant requested permission to import leather. The Security Council rejected this request, saying that we must import ready-made shoes.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf added: [Words indistinct] in Geneva gave the figure of $88 million, saying that this figure represents the aid provided to Iraq. This figure is not correct. Indeed, the true figure does not exceed $41 million. They added on paper the budgets of nongovernmental organizations to the program. This was confirmed by the deputy prime minister when he spoke of the state of affairs of specialized agencies. Those who are talking about the memorandum of understanding must remember that the figures provided cover the donors' promises as well as the budgets of nongovernmental organizations, which they deemed part of the program.

The news conference was attended by Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi.

UN Team Reportedly Continues Monitoring Ministry

JN2307100292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers have disclosed that the withdrawal of the international inspection team from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation did not mean an end to the siege—merely a change in tactics. In reports, with pictures, the two newspapers say that the team, led by the American officer Mark Silver, is monitoring the Ministry building with binoculars and video cameras from the balcony of the 17th floor of the 'Ishtar Hotel, previously known as the Sheraton, located opposite the ministry.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the team members take turns monitoring the ministry building and movements at the ministry and in nearby streets.

AL-JUMHURIYAH interviewed Silver, who admitted it was imaginary and not true that the team's members were attacked. Answering a question on the nature of the danger threatening the inspection team, American officer Mark Silver said: I have a feeling that we will be exposed to danger. Regarding the reasons for this feeling, Silver said it was because of the size of the angry Iraqi demonstrations around the ministry. He said: It seems that our work is only faced with hatred from you.

The team, which was led by American Major Karen Jansen, cordoned off the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for 18 days under the pretext that it contains documents on Iraq's armament affairs. The team withdrew from the Ministry area yesterday under the pretext that the Iraqi side did not provide adequate protection for the members of the team.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud described the team's step yesterday as a further step in the scenario aimed at escalating the fabricated crisis with Iraq. The minister said: The siege of the ministry has the same objectives as the burning of the wheat and barley farms and the attempts to obstruct the summer harvest.

AL-JUMHURIYAH published part of the dialogue between Mark Silver and the head of the Iraqi side accompanying the inspection team. The head of the Iraqi side asked the American officer to mention one incident in which any member of the team was the target of attack by any Iraqi citizen or to mention any discrepancy in the protection measures. The Iraqi official informed the head of the inspection team of Iraq's continued concern for the safety of the team. He told him: You are under our protection. You will never be harmed whether you stay around the Ministry or withdraw from it.

Envoy—Iraq Will Not Change Stand on Inspection

JN2307091192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0846 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] New York, 23 Jul (INA)—Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, has emphasized that Iraq will not change its position on the inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as such an inspection will be an attempt to humiliate the people.

Speaking to reporters in New York yesterday, al-Anbari said the idea of inspecting the Agriculture Ministry and the agriculture minister's office is ridiculous and the Security Council should cooperate with Iraq.

He scoffed at the threats blared out by the imperialist quarters and said any threat is, according to the UN Charter, an act of aggression.

Talabani Claims Nuclear, CW Papers at Ministry

NC2207193092 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Ankara, July 22 (AFP) - The Kurd leader in Iraq, Jalal Talabani, said Wednesday there were vital documents on Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons in the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad.

Talabani said the "very important documents" were hidden in the Ministry's basement. "We know from our sources there (in Baghdad) that documents concerning the site of nuclear weapons, even biological weapons, in Iraq are hidden in the Agriculture Ministry," he said without going into further detail.

Talabani said the United Nations inspectors, who called off their 17-day vigil outside the ministry on Wednesday fearing for their safety, "could not have been aware of the tunnels and secret underground passages under the building," through which he said "the documents could have been moved elsewhere."

Rebels Score 'Stunning Victory' in Marshlands

NC2307141492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic GMT 1323 23 Jul 92

[Text] The mujahidin sons of our people have scored a stunning victory over Saddam and his evil clique, which are committing aggression against our proud people.

The humiliated Saddam remnants in the angry al-'Amarah marshlands were annihilated from the first moment Saddam started his aggression against our kinfolk in the areas of (Abu-Subur), (Umm al-Hush), [word indistinct], al-'Aqar al-Kabir, [word indistinct], (al-Dawwarah), [words indistinct].

Our heroes succeeded in repulsing the Saddamist aggression and inflicted heavy losses on Saddam's mercenaries in revenge for the dignity of our proud Muslim people. They inflicted the following losses on agent Saddam's remnants:

1. They destroyed a very large part of the 14th Brigade.

2. The Saddamist losses were so great that more than 300 'Aflaqites were killed in (al-Dawwarah) sector alone.

3. Our heroic mujahidin burned 30 military vehicles.

4. A Saddamist captain was captured and taken to the rear lines.

5. A large quantity of weapons and equipment was destroyed.

God's victory will be for our mujahid people. The Saddamist remnants and their rotten head will turn into dust strewn by the winds.

Shiite Radio Reports 'Ambush' of Regime Troops

NC2207194192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1325 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The men of the popular uprising are still dealing blows to Saddam's forces, inflicting on them great losses in life and material.

Our heroes succeeded in setting up an ambush in (Umm al-Jush), the scene of recent attacks by the despicable regime against our people. A convoy of 'Aflaqite military vehicles rolled right into the ambush. Our revolutionaries fired mercilessly, mowing down the henchmen of criminal Saddam. This resulted in the death of three Masonic 'Aflaqite officers and over 50 of Saddam's mercenaries.

Meanwhile, further to our previous statements, we announce to the sons of our Muslim and mujahid people the latest statistics we received concerning the losses of Saddam's units during their onslaught against the villages close to al-Majarr al-Kabir in al- 'Amarah Governorate:

First, five vehicles were destroyed while transporting troops of the despicable 'Aflaqite regime.

Second, our fighters captured the following hardware: One wireless (Ratal) set, 15 wireless sets of the type 105, 10 RPG-7 launchers, five (BKC) machine guns, one 60-mm mortar gun, and 15 Kalashnikov rifles. Victory comes from God.

Opposition Claims to Repulse Regime Attack

JN2207191492 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Karkuk—On 20 July, the forces of the facist regime shelled Qarah Hasan, (Khalah Bazyani), and (Bas Duwaz) with heavy artillery. At 1700 on 21 July, a formation of the regime forces—eight tanks and four armored vehicles supported by three helicopter gunships—attacked (Komat) and (Khalah Bazyani) villages. They were confronted by forces from the Kurdistan Front's peshmerga. The peshmerga forces comprised two detachments from [words indistinct] and three detachments from our party's Avenge the Children detachments in (Shuwan) area in association with two detachments from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's peshmergas. The battle ended with the defeat of the enemy, leaving 15 dead, a number of wounded, and [word indistinct] a car of (Iva) model.

Blessed be your hands O heroes and impregnable wall of Kurdistan.

Minister—Team Withdrew 'Of Their Own Accord'

JN2207184492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has said that the withdrawal of the international inspection team, which had been stationed at the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry since 5 July, was done of their own accord.

At a press conference attended by world and local media correspondents, he said that Iraq had provided all the protection needed by the members of the international team, in addition to humanitarian needs to facilitate their mission in accordance with Resolution 687.

He added that rising popular anger was embodied in the protest marches through which the masses of Iraq expressed their dismay at the continued unjust blockade on them, the attempt to starve their sons through continued conspiracies against Iraq by the U.S. Administration, and the U.S. Administration's attempts to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The agriculture and irrigation minister also noted that the international inspection team's siege of the ministry building throughout that period in order to inspect it conflicted with international norms and charters, as well as the Security Council resolution pertaining to inspection.

Kurdish Radio Reports Regime Attack in Marshes

NC2207185792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The regime forces launched a wide-scale attack at dawn yesterday against the al-'Amarah marshlands. Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq sources said that the Iraqi regime forces used scores of fighter planes and helicopters, heavy artillery, and T-72 tanks in their attack. They are still shelling the populated areas. The sources said that scores of boats equipped with medium-caliber weapons and the Republican Guard forces took part in the attack. The tribesmen and the popular resistance forces confronted the regime's forces. Fierce battles are now taking place in most areas of the al-'Amarah marshlands.

Iraqi opposition sources said that fighter planes flew at high altitude over the al-'Amarah marshlands the day before yesterday. The sources did not say whether they belonged to the Iraqi regime or the coalition forces.

The marshlands came under heavy artillery fire before the attack was launched. The sources said that the regime forces used women and children as human shields to prevent attacks by the popular forces. The sources also noted that the regime forces are trying to dry up the marshlands by diverting their water into a third river. The work is expected to be completed within six months.

Anti-Saddam Demonstrations Reported in Baghdad

NC2207183092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Citing people who arrived from Baghdad, our correspondent in the [name indistinct] area reported that on 21 July, tumultuous demonstrations were staged in [name indistinct] in Baghdad, during which the demonstrators called for the removal of the regime which has brought calamities to the Iraqi people. Subsequently, fierce clashes took place between the demonstrators and the security and intelligence forces, which surrounded the area and detained a large number of unarmed people.

Meanwhile, residents organized a demonstration outside the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry building, where the UN inspection team is deployed. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the regime, saying that the United Nations is protecting the regime of Saddam Husayn; otherwise it would have worked to remove him from power.

Minister Inspects Forces, Senses 'High Morale'

JN2207174592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1726 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has inspected the operations sectors of the Hittin Forces, the IV Corps, and the al-Qadisiyah Forces of the III Corps, in al-'Amarah and al- Basrah Governorates, southern Iraq.

During his visit to the IV Corps, the defense minister met with the staff major general commander of the corps. He sensed the high morale enjoyed by the corps fighters, including officers and other ranks, as well as their creative performance despite of the circumstances of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The corps fighters expressed their high preparedness to undertake any mission they might be assigned in the defense of great Iraq. Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid also visited the operations sector of the heroic III Corps.

Saddam Husayn Inspects Development Site

JN2207163492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today inspected the work under way to develop one of the areas [word indistinct] in Baghdad.

Citizens gathered around his excellency, thanking him for his noble gesture, shouting for his life and praising his wise leadership and shrewdness in foiling the conspiracies of the aggression forces, which seek to halt Iraqi development and progress.

Afterwards, his excellency toured a fair displaying gifts to his excellency by Iraqi and Arab citizens and some foreign friends on the the occasion of the 17-30 July revolution.

Members of Pro-Saddam 'Terrorist' Group Arrested

NC2107192092 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] A few days ago Kuwaiti security personnel arrested a terrorist group comprised of five people. The 'Aflaqite regime gave the group support and explosives to undermine stability in Kuwait in implementing Saddam's subversive plans.

According to the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry spokesman, the Kuwaiti authorities discovered explosives and documents showing that the criminal gang was acting with funding and instructions from the intelligence service of Saddam, the people's enemy.

The 'Aflaqite criminals admitted that they planted a bomb near the dean of the Medical College's house, killing one of his servants. The 'Aflaqites also confessed that they had earlier thrown incendiary bombs on arts centers in Kuwait City.

It was disclosed that the group is made up of three men: an Iraqi, a Kuwaiti, and a stateless Arab, as well as two Iraqi women who sold their souls to serve the defeated Saddam's designs against the sons of the brotherly people of Kuwait.

SAIRI: Planes Bomb Rebels, Kill 'Hundreds'

NC2207155092 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Nicosia, July 22 (AFP) - Iraqi warplanes bombed Shiite rebels in the country's southern marshes for 10 hours Tuesday, killing "hundreds" of people and destroying houses, an opposition group said Wednesday.

"Six Sukhoi aircraft and a MiG-23" dropped "hundreds of incendiary bombs," the Iraqi Shiite group, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

"Hundreds of civilians were killed (and) many houses were destroyed," the Tehran-based group said.

SAIRI also reported that tanks of the elite Iraqi Republican Guards were advancing under an artillery barrage on populated areas in the marshes, where Iraqi Shiite opponents are entrenched.

The Iraqi [as received] news agency, IRNA, reported Tuesday that Iraqi troops had launched a big offensive against the rebels, who fled to the marshes following an abortive uprising after the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Opposition Reports al-Sulaymaniyah Car Explosion

JN2207133292 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] al-Sulaymaniyah—A booby-trapped car exploded in front of the UN offices in al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday. As a result of the explosion, UN guards were slightly wounded by flying glass.

UN guards have been exposed to several incidents over the past two weeks. A guard was killed when shots were fired at him and two guards were wounded in a hand grenade attack.

AL-THAWRAH Assails Arab 'Traitors'

JN2207125192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges Arabs to escalate their jihad and wage battles of honor to liberate the nation's territories and free its resources and will of all usurpist and covetous enemies and also of all traitors who are abandoning Arab rights to foreigners and causing weakness, surrender, and treason to prevail.

In an editorial published today, the paper notes the treasonous and unpatriotic positions of the Al Sa'ud and al-Sabah regimes, which moved to the trench of the fight against Iraq and the Arab nation's fateful causes.

The paper particularly refers to the role played by the Hafar al-Batin traitors who attended the Baghdad summit in May 1990, the summit convened to face Zionist-imperialist threats against Iraq and support the Palestinian people's intifadah. In the aftermath of the summit, these traitors moved with their armies to the trench of the anti-Iraq aggression, the paper says.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, touches on the pan-Arab, humane, and nationalist sentiments disseminated by the Mother of Battles, since the truth of the matter, which was known by an elite group of individuals, became known to all Arabs all over the Arab homeland. The paper adds that one of the most important accomplishments of the Mother of Battles is that it ended intertwinement in Arab ranks and sorted out traitors, who appeared stark naked and devoid of the revolutionary, religious, or ethical mantles which they had donned for many long years.

The paper says that the Saudi rulers continued to open the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz for U.S. troops and to participate with them in acts of aggression against Iraq despite the fact that the excuses for their blatant crime have been removed. They are receiving Zionist delegations in Riyadh and sending their delegations to Tel Aviv, the paper notes. At the same time, they are besieging the Iraqi people and withholding support for the intifadah people. In the same vein, the al-Sabah dynasty is playing the same role through its treasonous amir. They have chosen to pay $1 million to modernize a zoo in London rather than donate $2,000 to Palestinians, not to mention the crimes of murder,

torture, and expulsion this dynasty committed against hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and other Arabs. As for the Egyptian ruler, he is no longer capable of sailing under false colors, since his true identity as a U.S. agent who maintains the best of ties with Tel Aviv and the capitals of treason, conspires against honorable Arabs, and sends his troops to fight Iraq, has been established.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Mother of Battles has closed a chapter in the Arab political life, ended once and for all the traitors' subversive role in Arab ranks, and clearly showed the nation's masses the positions of all rulers toward all causes and issues.

After noting the historic speech delivered by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the 24th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, AL-THAWRAH says that the revolution which proved to be too strong to be undermined by an 8-year war and a 30-state aggression will forge ahead until victory. It is the revolution of all poor and honorable Arabs. It reflects their will. As for this revolution's leadership, it is the leadership of these Arabs. With these Arabs, the revolution will be able to achieve all of its objectives, the paper concludes.

Official Seeks Support To End Ministry Crisis

JN2207110092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jul (INA)—Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun today received heads of the diplomatic missions accredited in Baghdad of Morocco, the PRC, the Russian Federation, India, and Hungary, which are members of the UN Security Council.

During his meeting with the heads of these missions, Nizar Hamdun reviewed the facts pertaining to joint action with inspection teams. He also reviewed the measures Iraq has taken in compliance with the commitments imposed on it in accordance with Resolution 687 over the past 15 months, during which the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have been working in Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary pointed out that the number of inspection teams which have thus far visited Iraq total 41, not to mention six other special missions, as well as the aerial reconnaissance flight teams. The number of personnel involved in these teams exceeds 500 persons, he noted. Concerning the inspection flights carried out in Iraq, these were conducted over a period of 400 days, during which 260 inspection flights were conducted using helicopters, he said. The helicopters used in these flights completed 1,200 flight hours. The inspection teams have also been provided with tonnes of documented information, he said.

Nizar Hamdun added that the Special Commission chaired by Ekeus as well as the IAEA are well aware, through documents, that Iraq has honored most of its commitments, and that they have a clear picture of Iraq's capabilities. The determination to inspect the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is aimed at fabricating a crisis and violating Iraq's sovereignty, he noted.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary continued: From time to time, we hear the Special Commission making vague statements to the effect that Iraq is not committed to the enforcement of Resolution 687. This runs contrary to all facts. The allegations regarding the presence of material or documents related to Resolution 687 inside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation could become a serious precedent. In the future, it might be said that the Foreign Ministry contains banned material. It is not far-fetched that at some future time, the Special Commission will receive tendencious information from certain sources to the effect that the Presidential Palace contains important documents and banned material.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary went on to say: We communicated the following requests, which are related to the Special Commission's work, to Ekeus:

A. The formula according to which the Special Commission has been working must be adapted, as this formula has exhausted all of its purposes. If the Special Commission sees a need to follow up its work, both sides must agree on the ways, means, and purposes of such follow-up work clearly and accurately.

B. We asked Ekeus and the Special Commission to withdraw the helicopters affiliated to the Commission as soon as possible, as there are no justifications for their presence. Should the need arise for the use of helicopters, Iraq is willing to provide its own helicopters for the Commission's use.

C. We asked Ekeus to immediately refrain from using Americans in inspection teams because of their anti-Iraq stands, not to mention that some of them are not specialists.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary added: We affirmed to Ekeus that we find it hard to understand how he speaks about the Security Council's prestige and authority, echoing tribal sentiments. It is very strange for Westerners in particular to pursue such a method, especially since they totally ignore the prestige, dignity, and sovereignty of other states.

With regard to handling the stand-off created by the inspection teams themselves outside the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Nizar Hamdun indicated that Iraq proposed during the meeting held between Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Ekeus on 19 July that invitations be extended to a group of experts from the Nonaligned Movement or even from other countries, such as the PRC, Austria, and Sweden to visit the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and inspect its contents to ascertain that it does not contain any material or documents related to Resolution 687, provided that such a visit be isolated from the jurisdiction of the Special Commission.

Hamdun pointed out that Ekeus discussed this formula with the deputy prime minister during their meeting, and that he promised not to oppose it at the Security Council.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary asked the heads of the missions of Morocco, the PRC, the Russian Federation, and Hungary to support this proposal, as it is an honorable and practical way out of the crisis, one that would safeguard Iraq's sovereignty. Hamdun noted that this would also help others know the truth regarding the alleged claims that material related to Resolution 687 is inside the ministry premises.

Rabin, Egypt's Mubarak Hold Press Conference

TA2207112892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Jul 92

["Excerpts" of joint news conference by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo on 21 Jul—recorded in English]

[Text] [Rabin] President of Egypt, President Mubarak, ladies and gentlemen:

First I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for inviting me to come in such early time of my being in office to exchange views about the situation in the region, about bilateral issues, about the possible ways how to advance the peace process. I said in my speech in the Knesset that we believe that Egypt can play a role and, after all, everybody has to remember that Egypt was in the spearhead of breaking historic walls and bringing about a peace treaty between an—the—Arab country and Israel.

Therefore, I am very thankful to the president. I am thankful for inviting me for an exchange of views. And, no doubt, I hope that the peace process, the peace-making process, within the framework of the Madrid conference, will go on. We will find ways in our bilateral discussions with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with the Syrians, with the Lebanese, even though there are areas in which at the present there are better chances. Maybe the future will prove that there are other chances on another sector. We'll have to [word indistinct] what can be done without risking Israel's vital security and national interests, to do the utmost to accelerate the peace negotiations, to find ways how to do it in a way that will meet the needs of peace and security for everybody.

I would like, Mr. President, even if it's two days earlier, to congratulate you on your national day and to wish to you, Mr. President, and to the Egyptian people, every good.

[Israel Television's Ehud Ya'ari] What are the points of understanding which emerged from your discussions today as concerning the priorities of the negotiations, the place for future bilateral negotiations—possibly Cairo—and the role of Syria in the next round of negotiations?

[Rabin] I did not come to reach any agreement or understanding. The purpose was to exchange views, bearing in mind the fact that Egypt, as the key Arab member, the leading Arab country, the Arab country that leads the peace, can serve as a bridge of understanding with others—not in a formal way—the formal way is the framework of the Madrid conference. There are issues on which we differ, as we knew beforehand—what are the terms for peace with one or another Arab country. There are issues on which, I assume, that there is a basis for understanding. For example, when we talk about the movement of solution between us and the Palestinians, Palestinians in the territories, we are committed internationally to the Camp David accords that Egypt and Israel signed as a basis for the beginning of the solution to the autonomy, self-rule, as an interim agreement for the transitional period.

[Ya'ari] Was the possibility of moving the negotiations at some future date to Cairo discussed between you?

[Mubarak] Look, we have no objections for that if all the parties agree. Cairo is open, and whenever they want to come here for negotiations they are welcome. If they want to go to another place, it's their business.

[Rabin] May I add. I said to the president that I believe that at the present we are committed to go, but Israel will welcome an arrangement that on a later stage that the bilateral negotiations will be held in Egypt.

[Mubarak] Of course, exchanging views with Mr. Rabin I consider very important. We have discussed all the issues, but I would like to remind you again that Mr. Rabin is only one week in office. I can't ask him for too many things. Let him be given the time, enough time, to work out the conception, everything. He knows very well our conception; we didn't change it. But, I think, we could move forward in the peace process with logic.

[Unidentified moderator] Third question to [name indistinct] from the CNN.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent] Mr. President, did your meeting today with the prime minister include a discussion of the settlement issue? If so, do you feel that the Israeli Government is going far enough in halting or freezing settlements and, in your opinion, do you feel that Israel should receive the U.S. loan guarantees that it's been seeking?

[Mubarak] Will you repeat the question without the microphone? There is so many noise.

[CNN correspondent] The question, sir, was about the settlements; whether your meeting included a discussion of the settlement issue, whether you feel that the Israeli Government is going far enough in halting or freezing settlements and, in your opinion, do you think that Israel should receive the U.S. loan guarantees it's seeking?

[Mubarak] I could tell you something concerning the statement which was leveled by the prime minister about the settlements is a good step on the right track, and we appreciate it. Yet, we need much more, but we leave it to him now. Concerning the guarantees, this depends upon the United States and Israel. Concerning the settlements, I cannot interfere any more in this.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent] Sir, would you encourage the Arab states to provide a reciprocal confidence-building gesture? Would you encourage them, let's say to [3-second break in transmission].

[Mubarak] .... to go through the negotiations. We made a big effort before the Madrid conference, during the

Madrid conference, and still after the Madrid conference we are doing the maximum efforts so as to persuade all the parties, the Arab parties, to go through the peace negotiations because we consider this vital for the whole area.

[Unidentified CNN correspondent] But is it time to revoke the Arab boycott, sir, the economic boycott?

[Mubarak] You know our statement concerning the boycott vis-a-vis freezing building settlements. We cannot change our position like that.

[Rabin] Well, Israel has stressed from the very beginning, and Egypt was the first country that by its own decision decided that peace has to be negotiated between the two parties that decided to put an end to the war and establish a relationship of peace. The principle of face-to-face negotiations on a bilateral basis—this is the guideline that brought about the Madrid conference. Therefore, the main stress, the main responsibility for the peace- making process belongs to the parties to the existing conflict, between us and the Jordanians and the Palestinians, between us and the Syrians, between us and the Lebanese, or other Arab countries. With Egypt we have peace. It's only natural to exchange views about the issues between Israel and the key Arab country with which we have for 13, over 13 years, peace treaty.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, I would like to ask your excellency: Are you optimistic about your relation with the prime minister of Israel? Especially, you refused before to have this invitation with Shamir because there is no step toward peace.

[Mubarak] Look, I am not in a position to create problems now. I know Mr. Rabin before; he visited us when he was defense minister. We had long discussions. Nowadays he is the prime minister, and I repeat again for the third time, he is one week in office. I invited to see him. We have already discussed all the issues for the process, and time should be given.

Ten days before the elections I was asked to meet with Mr. Shamir, and we arranged that after the elections. But it happened that Mr. Rabin came to office. So, this is one... [changes thought] I didn't refuse to meet with Mr. Shamir, but I asked to work out something to be concluding during the meeting, to tell the public something, to give hope for the people of the Middle East that peace is very important and could be achieved, and that's the point.

Rabin Praises Mubarak at Convention

TA2207204592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that nobody is extending his hand in peace to us, but we will have to prove that our hand is extended in peace, while at the same time not giving up our security. Mr. Rabin praised President Mubarak for keeping the peace during all the years that Egypt was isolated in the Arab world.

The prime minister reiterated that the national order of priorities has to be changed, and that we have to deal first with education, health, and creating employment, but also with the failed organizations identified with Labor. If we do not carry out reforms and changes we will lose the trust of the people, Rabin said. He was addressing the 9th Convention of the Labor Zionist Movement in Jerusalem.

Herzog Greets Mubarak, Egyptians on Anniversary

TA2207145792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] President Herzog has greeted the Egyptian president and people on the occasion of their revolution day, which is celebrated tomorrow. In his greeting the president says that Israel continues to crave for peace with its neighbors and expresses his confidence that Egypt under Mubarak's leadership will contribute to the promotion of peace.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Baker Meetings

TA2207195792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1850 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by moderator Yoram Ronen, Israel Television political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and YEDI'OT AHARONOT political commentator Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat on the weekly "Moqed" program—live in the studio]

[Text] [Ronen] It has been an intense political week. James Baker is on his last shuttle trip, Prime Minister Rabin paid his first visit to Cairo, and there are accelerated preparations to renew the peace talks. That was only the first week of the new government. Shim'on Peres has returned to the focus of the political arena. This evening he is giving his first interview as foreign minister. Good evening, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, after the talks with Baker and Mubarak, it appears to me that the Americans and the Arabs now more or less know the limits of our concessions. Do we now expect to find out the limits of concessions by the Arab side?

[Peres] First, the Arab side must understand that it must make concessions, because if it insists on everything it demands there will be no peace process. A peace process is a meeting between two sides in which neither gets everything it wants.

[Ronen] According to reports, up to now the Arabs are sticking to their hardline position and are not prepared to make concessions.

[Peres] I would not say that. Although it is not final, Mr. Baker received the impression, and told us, that for example on elections, which is a central issue in the autonomy process, the Arabs are drawing closer to our

position. The dispute was whether we start with elections for a legislative council or negotiations are conducted and elections are held for what is called an administrative council [last two words in English]. In fact, the Palestinians wanted to put the cart before the horse by starting with a Palestinian state prior to autonomy. What has now happened is that they understand that first there has to be autonomy without any commitment to a Palestinian state.

[Sukenik] But Baker made it clear to you and Mr. Rabin in your meetings during his visit here in recent days, and you both know that it will be impossible to advance with the Palestinians without making parallel progress in some way in the negotiations with the neighboring states, especially Syria. In the meantime, we see that you and Mr. Rabin have played several strong cards.

[Peres] For example?

[Sukenik] For instance, on settlements.

[Peres] First, we have not given up anything.

[Sukenik] If you permit me to complete the question, then in the meantime, you have not received any down to earth answer. Mubarak said that it is nice but insufficient. Baker said in Jordan that it is insufficient, at least on the settlement issue. Mubarak did not even agree to say something positive on the Arab economic boycott. From the Arab countries we have so far heard reservations and suspicion. So perhaps you raced ahead too quickly?

[Peres] On the settlement issue, we have done since the elections what we said we would do prior to the elections. There has been no change as a result of the Baker visit. We decided freely to transfer the funds invested in settlements to aliyah, employment, and other things. In reference to the Syrians, we never said to the Syrian leader, wait in line and you will get something. We said: If you want to enter negotiations then it is without preconditions.

[Ben-Porat] Mr. Peres, during the election campaign and in recent days, Prime Minister Rabin has referred to a new concept, which I believe the public does not precisely understand. Mr. Baker, Mr. Mubarak, and the Palestinians might already know what it means, but the Israeli public does not really understand it. I assume you know. I am talking about the distinction between political, and security—or what I call strategic—settlements. Do you wholeheartedly accept that distinction, and what does it mean?

[Peres] It would be best to ask Mr. Rabin himself on that, but I can explain my concept. Over the years, we have said that settlement in the Jordan Rift Valley, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights has security value. That is understood. On the other hand, locating settlements in densely populated Arab areas does not serve the aims we want to achieve. In general, we have some sort of concept of what we want to achieve. According to that, we do not want to settle in highly populated Arab areas. We are very interested in safeguarding the border since security considerations remain real.

[Ben-Porat] Did you sit with Mr. Baker over a map? Did he ask you where are the security and where are the political settlements?

[Peres] No. Mr. Baker came with a timetable rather than maps because everybody knows the map. What is needed is how to make quick progress. I believe that Mr. Baker gained the impression that we have a government that wants to move ahead, which is looking for not only the trappings of peace but also the substance. We want it to take off.

[Ben-Porat] I am not saying anything new to you, and everybody heard Baker during his current tour of the Arab states saying clearly that he does not accept that distinction.

[Peres] We did not undertake to accept everything Mr. Baker says, and Mr. Baker did not undertake to accept everything we say. What Mr. Baker said, and we say, and many Arabs say, is that an opportunity has been created which permits us to make progress on peace. There are still differences, definitely. I believe that in order to get a comprehensive picture we must view the Baker visit as a first step which will be fully realized when Mr. Rabin visits Washington.

[Ben-Porat] Is the next step already known to you?

[Peres] The next move will be our prime minister's visit to Washington for a meeting with the U.S. President. The negotiations started there, I hope that they will come to fruition there.

[Ronen] Let us be more specific. You said in recent years in quite some detail that we should leave the Gaza Strip. You even coined the phrase, Gaza first. Did that idea crop up in the talks with Baker? The idea that we evacuate Gaza and perhaps leave it in the initial stage to an Arab autonomy?

[Ben-Porat] Permit me to add that even Mr. Arens recently reiterated the formula that was initiated by Mr. Peres, the idea of Gaza first.

[Peres] I have known for long that the gap between us and some Likud members is only one of time. Soon they will understand all of our concept, but I do not want to criticize them but to answer your question. We did not discuss the map of the permanent settlement. We discussed three real subjects. First, is how to advance the autonomy, how to extricate the autonomy from all the constraints to which it has been tied. Second, which obviously interests us, is how to advance the issue of aliyah and the loan guarantees for immigration absorption. The third, touched on the region as a whole. The Syrian issue was definitely raised by Mr. Baker, but even he found there was some difficulty in that issue since so far the Syrians have not said anything specific about their attitude to peace, how it looks to them.

[Ronen] But if the Syrians say tomorrow or the next day or in a week's time: We want a peace treaty with Israel, we will have to give them something in return, some sort of interim arrangement, some sort of readiness for territorial compromise perhaps on the Golan Heights.

[Peres] If they say that, we will offer the following things: A. Let us meet without preconditions. You can put on the table everything you want; we will put on the table everything we require, including the country's security needs. B. In reference to the language of the negotiations: we draw your attention to the wording of the invitation to Madrid, which includes the concepts [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338. The Likud Government also accepted it, and they constitute the basis to start negotiations.

[Sukenik] So what difference is there for the Syrians between the Likud and Labor Governments since they were told that by Likud as well and it did not satisfy them?

[Peres] First, the difference is that Mr. Shamir said that he dragged the negotiations out, he did not conduct them....

[Sukenik, interrupting] ...But he said that later.

[Peres] I really did not understand why Mr. Shamir invited the Syrians if he did not have anything to offer them. We previously did not suggest inviting the Syrians. The view of Labor, and Mr. Rabin, and myself was first to resolve the Palestinian problem and then move onto the Syrian issue. But if the Syrians are genuine, we do not exclude them entirely. Just as we are serious about the Palestinians, we are serious about everybody. Nobody is excluded from the peace negotiations. We want to achieve a peace which includes all the states, all the issues, and all the developments in the Middle East.

[Sukenik] So regarding this matter of not excluding any party: the previous government refused to allow the Palestinian side to decide on its representatives. For example, East Jerusalem residents were banned, as were representatives of the Palestinian diaspora. Do you think that this government could somehow agree to let people affiliated with the PLO...for example, would you or representatives of this government agree to sit down with Faysal al- Husayni as part of a Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] Look, I do not understand the need for this. We have an agreed upon Palestinian delegation. This delegation is acceptable to the Palestinians, the Arabs, the Americans, and Israel. Why should we reopen negotiations on the composition of the delegation?

[Sukenik] Well, as you know, there is a problem in the multilateral negotiations. There are two committees that Israel has boycotted because of the participation of representatives from outside the territories. Will it take part in the future even if these people attend?

[Peres] You are right about this problem regarding two out of the five multilateral committees. I think that the principle we should observe is not to discuss the right of return. As for the other technical matters, I hope that we can find a way to resolve them. We shall not back down on this principle.

[Sukenik] Then they will be able to participate?

[Peres] I did not say that.

[Sukenik] Under these stated conditions.

[Peres] I said that we shall insist that the right of return not be included on the agenda. We are very much interested in promoting the multilateral issues...[Peres changes thought] We do not understand this either. A unique opportunity was created. The representatives of 14 Arab countries came to Tokyo—I believe that about 34 countries took part altogether—to discuss the future of the Middle East and all the issues we are interested in, together with Israel, publicly and in broad daylight. Why did we suddenly leave the table in a huff? I do not understand this. After all, we have to answer two questions. First, the issue of relations between peoples and countries. Second, the question of attitude toward regional processes that are both very dangerous and very promising. Today the countries of the entire world are organizing themselves on a regional basis because missiles do not respect national boundaries or borders, water does not flow according to customs tariffs or follow borders.

[Ben-Porat] Let me define the previous question a bit more because I was not satisfied with your answer, if you will excuse me for saying so. At the time, the unity government fell over several questions that were formulated by the United States. The Labor members of the government agreed, but the Likud said no. One of the questions was whether a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem could participate in the bilateral negotiations. The reference was apparently to Faysal al-Husayni. At the time you agreed to this and this was basically the reason you left the government, which led to its collapse. Why do you reject this today? This is what the Palestinians demand.

[Peres] My good friend Mr. Ben-Porat, I read your interview with Arens. What did Arens tell you in the interview? He said that he had agreed on a formula with Baker...

[Ben-Porat, interrupting] That is correct.

[Peres, continuing] ...he then returned to Israel and Mr. Shamir rejected Arens' own formula.

[Ben-Porat] That is true.

[Peres] This was not an isolated incident.

[Ben-Porat] But you had accepted the formula.

[Peres] We had accepted the formula and we said that it should be implemented; however, we never agreed to discuss the right of return, and I remain adamant on this

today. What has happened since then is that the Palestinians have also compromised. Why should we consistently move backwards? They agreed to compromise on a certain composition for their delegation. Incidentally, the difference between Labor and the Likud then, as well as today, was in the fact that we said that we would not examine who the delegation consulted with outside of the negotiating process itself. We defined the parameters. We said that we would not allow the PLO and that we would not let members of the Palestine National Council participate, but we permitted the delegation to consult with whomever it wanted.

[Ben-Porat] Is this also valid today?

[Peres] We have not changed our opinion.

[Ronen] In other words, you reject the inclusion of people who are clearly identified with the PLO?

[Peres] I do not understand what you want. Do you want to hold retroactive negotiations [laughs]. We have an agreed upon delegation that we sit down with. This delegation is already organized and acceptable to everyone. Why do you want to move backwards? If there were no delegation, I would understand your question, while you would have a hard time understanding my response; however, we already have an existing basis and it is a pity to waste time reinventing the wheel. It already exists.

[Ronen] Before moving over to more personal issues. I would like to ask another question about the Syrian aspect. The Labor party has clearly declared that it supports the formula of land for peace. Can this formula also be considered viable regarding the Golan Heights, if we ever reach this point?

[Peres] Look, in order to be accurate, fair, and truthful, there is a difference between the positions adopted by the Labor party in its convention, which by the way did not speak of land for peace but rather territorial compromise in all sectors....

[Ronen, interrupting]...Including the Golan Heights?

[Peres] In all sectors. This position was also implied in later statements such as those about two kilometers that, for example, furnished 17 years of peace on the Golan Heights.

[Ronen] What Prime Minister Rabin said on our program last week?

[Peres] Exactly what Prime Minister Rabin said. Afterward, when forming the coalition's terminology, which definitely differs from the Labor party decisions if not in actual content then at the very least in semantics, we decided to adopt the kind of phrasing most suitable to enable us to include the greatest number of parties in the coalition. Therefore, we clearly noted that the invitation to the Madrid conference explicitly refers to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, thus giving us all we need to enable any interested Arab party to come and sit down to negotiations. As you are aware, the Syrians do not accept the Camp David accords but they accept 242 and 338. So we can tell them: please sit down. We are telling the Syrians and any other interested party: we did not push you out of the negotiations. Come to negotiate without any preconditions. You will be able to present any demands you want, while we will state our requirements. You have seen that these two resolutions are mentioned in the document of invitation to the Madrid conference.

[Sukenik] By the way, do you see a possibility of holding a conference of the foreign ministers from all parties to the conflict next month? We have heard rumors from Egypt about such an initiative.

[Peres] Yes, there is such an idea. There is definitely an idea to raise the level of representation in the regional negotiations, or what is known as the multilateral talks, to the level of foreign ministers. Definitely. We take this exceptional opportunity very seriously. I know that many people regard the multilaterals as some kind of distant visionary thing. It is neither visionary nor distant. As I have already said before, something has happened that we have almost failed to notice. The Arab countries are willing to come and discuss with us the economic future of the Middle East, its ecological fate, disarmament, the refugee problem. All the problems that bothered us. These issues: the nonconventional weapons, the missiles, the environmental problems, and the new economics that have changed the face of the world are issues that no country can avoid dealing with in the new reality.

[Sukenik] Are you trying to initiate an acceleration in the discussions?

[Peres] We are trying to initiate an acceleration in all fields, not only in that, in everything possible, in autonomy, in bilateral relations, and in the reorganization of the Middle East so that it will be able to face those things. We want to make serious progress, and move ahead as quickly as possible, to make fitting strides.

[Ben-Porat] Do you believe we will be able to implement autonomy within nine months?

[Peres] I believe that we will make a very serious effort to fill that date with substance as promised. We treat with the greatest gravity what we promised in the elections. We said nine months up to one year. I can say with certainty that to the extent that it depends on us the answer is definitely yes. We are aware that not everything depends on us.

[Ronen] Mr. Peres, we will move on to a more personal field. We would like to ask about the division of labor between you and Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Peres] I see that it tickles you.

[Ronen] Would you define the division of labor between you as perhaps a mirror image of the situation that existed between Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi in the

previous government, with the prime minister leading and you more or less playing second fiddle?

[Ben-Porat] If I may just add, it was not only Shamir-Levi, everybody knows that. We veterans remember that there were also problems between Ben-Gurion and Sharett, and Begin and Shamir.

[Peres] What you are saying is that there is hope that there will be problems.

[Ben-Porat] There is a syndrome, there are prerogatives that the prime minister has. In our country, the prime minister deals with U.S. relations. He is in direct contact with the President, with the administration there. He also deals with the peace process. Is there a division of labor between you on that?

[Peres] I will tell you honestly that Yitzhaq Rabin and I sat down together and what was said between us was the following: I am aware of the fact that Yitzhaq Rabin was elected prime minister and I will respect the post and the authority. I was chosen foreign minister, and that role also carries responsibilities which Yitzhaq Rabin intends to respect. In other words, there was a democratic decision by the party. We both have a responsibility to carry out with all due respect and depth. In my view, the real problem between the prime minister and foreign minister, and to a large extent between the prime minister and defense minister, is not how to divide up the powers, but how to cooperate. The fields of prime minister, foreign affairs, and defense cannot be divided up like in a pharmacy, each jar marked differently. There are many common fields. We are old enough and experienced enough to understand that we are not in a competition but in a race. We are not in a competition between two people, but in a race which contains not insignificant difficulties but also many opportunities. Each of us is asking himself—I certainly do— there are a number of years ahead of us, why invest it in rivalry over powers rather than action for peace.

[Ronen] Did you tell Mr. Rabin clearly that you will not compete against him any more for party leadership?

[Peres] I did not, and there is no need to. There was a decision. I announced that I respect it, and there is no need to add to that. What is of interest today is not party politics but national politics. We carry a very heavy—I am wary of saying historic—responsibility not to miss the peace process. Each of us will put his ego aside and serve the country and its needs in one of the most critical and important periods in our history in order to reach the target. Look, at some point people have to be serious, and I hope that we will disappoint all those who are searching constantly for a hint or sign that the big fight is starting. It will not happen, there will be a serious partnership.

[Ronen] If we look at the past, there is reason for that.

[Peres] That is not completely true. In the past, too, there were many occasions on which we worked together. There was the withdrawal from Lebanon, the lowering of hyperinflation, even the London accord, as well as many other things. I am aware that there are people standing around with a stop watch and binoculars waiting for the moment that the fight breaks out.

[Sukenik] We do not belong to that group, but we know that Yitzhaq Rabin has made it publicly clear that he has sole responsibility—just as Yitzhaq Shamir did—for the direct peace talks, which are the heart of the matter, and that you will be responsible in the Foreign Ministry—as David Levi was—for the multilaterals. It did not work between Shamir and Levi. Did Mr. Rabin also make it personally clear to you.

[Peres] You are using a style I have not heard, but I will make it clear so as not to beg the question.

[Sukenik] How was it explained to you?

[Peres] It was made clear that there are two parallel processes which feed on each other, the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. One is to resolve the conflict and the other is an attempt to build a new situation in the Middle East, of which I am a big supporter. Yitzhaq Rabin offered, and I accepted, that he will lead the bilateral negotiations in full cooperation with me. I will lead the regional or multilateral negotiations in full cooperation with him. I wish to tell you that this was a very eventful week and both things took place. Both of us were in the picture. When we had to consult each other we did, and I hope we will continue to do so in the future. It is our duty not only our privilege.

[Ben-Porat] I want to put a very indiscreet question to you.

[Peres] I understand that everything up to now has been discreet.

[Ronen] At least we have tried.

[Ben-Porat] Had the choice really been up to you, had Mr. Rabin said to you: Shim'on, you are number two in the party, chose what you want. Would you not have chosen the Defense Ministry?

[Peres] Perhaps, but I definitely recognize the fact that the candidate for prime minister and then the prime minister has the right to allocate portfolios.

[Ben-Porat] You know both jobs well, you were prime minister and defense minister. Is it not too heavy a burden for one man?

[Peres] The man has to decide that not I. It has been done before. I can understand the logic of joining the two ministries. The logic of it focuses on the territories. Since they are the heart of the negotiations on autonomy, and the prime minister leads the negotiations on autonomy, there is some logic for him also to be responsible for what happens in the territories, especially if it is for a period of nine months to a year. It is a critical period and perhaps during that time it is logical. I am trying to think as the

prime minister who is trying to organize matters would. It might be justified, I would not dismiss it out of hand.

[Ronen] Had you not received an important portfolio of foreign or defense minister would you have retired or accepted the call by several colleagues to become education minister.

[Peres] Retire from what?

[Ronen] Politics.

[Peres] That is just talk. I believe in the peace process. I will not resign from the peace process. I read somewhere that people do not get bored eating bread. I am not bored for one moment doing what is necessary to advance peace. I would look for any path to advance the peace process. I am too old to look at life through portfolios, or administrations, or powers. I am experienced enough to look at life through processes, opportunities, and dates for action.

[Ronen] But totally devoting yourself to the peace process would not be possible if you were education minister or if you held some other cabinet position.

[Peres] First of all, I respect the job of education minister very much.

[Ronen] But you did not want it.

[Peres] It was not a question of not wanting it. I think that several preconditions are necessary to promote this issue and I doubt that these conditions could be realized. I definitely thought that right now my experience as well as my predilections were focused on the promotion of peace. I also believe that education in Israel has been detrimentally affected by the situation we currently find ourselves in, what with the territories, the intifadah, and the decline in national morale. Peace is also an educational process. Listen, I cannot help but feel convinced that the greatest contribution today to the nation's security lies in the peace process. I am deeply convinced that there is now a real and serious chance to bring peace to this region, to bring peace to our schoolchildren. I also consider this an educational process.

[Ben-Porat] Over the past few years, even while still in the unity government and later in the opposition, you have often spoken about great projects for the Middle East. Some of these plans were quite specific: the construction of a joint Israeli-Egyptian nuclear reactor for desalination on the border between the two countries, etc...

[Ronen] A Middle East Marshall Plan.

[Ben-Porat] Do you intend to implement some of these plans as foreign minister?

[Peres] Without a question. Look, when I speak of multilateral or regional negotiations, I am actually talking about two things. How to organize Middle East security not just on a national basis but on a regional one since today the threat does not come just from Israel's immediate borders with an Arab country, but from the increased range of missiles and nonconventional weapons. There is also another fundamental issue, which is crucial not just for us but for the Arabs as well and this is the economic one. What are the problems threatening the Arab countries? Israel? Just Israel? Who said so? It is poverty, fanaticism, the price of arms, corruption—all these things threaten all young Arabs and every Arab head of state. I unequivocally declare that I intend to devote effort and thought to build upon these two foundations in order to achieve lasting peace—and I believe this is possible. I doubt that we will able to establish lasting peace if we only implement autonomy and resolve the Palestinian problem. You can hang the most beautiful picture on the wall, but if the wall crumbles then the painting will fall down. What we need now are not just paintings but new walls.

[Sukenik] You held numerous secret meetings with Arab leaders in the past. I do not know if you would like to elaborate on that or not but we do not have the time anyway. Do the Arab leaders understand all this?

[Peres] They understand it perfectly.

[Sukenik] So why is nothing moving forward?

[Peres] First of all, some things have moved forward.

[Sukenik] Until the Americans intervened nothing happened.

[Peres] First of all there was the London agreement. I left the Shamir government, and I think this saved the Labor party because they said no to the questions from Washington and Cairo, and said no to London. The London agreement was a first-class agreement. We could have saved ourselves the intifadah and furthered peace. I would just like to say something I have learned from experience: one must always discern between public rhetoric—because every Arab leader has another public listening to him—and one's sober reasoning in a small closed room. I would not have said what I did about the chances for peace had I not heard Arab leaders speak of the Arab interest behind closed doors. They did not come to serve us. I am not naive and they are not doing us any favors or serving Israel. They serve their own interests.

[Sukenik] We will ask you again, with whom did you meet?

[Peres] Listen, you want me to meet the same person again. If you want me to meet him again I will not answer your question.

[Ben-Porat] Mr. Peres, at least tell us if you met people we do not know about? At least tell us that.

[Peres] I generally have the impression that you know more than really happened, but [laughs] in this case there are possibly people you do not know about.

[Ronen] We have to stop here, Mr. Foreign Minister, and thank you for your first interview at the job.

Palestinians Deny Demand for Assembly Waived

TA2207153492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 p 3

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and On Levi]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources involved in the peace process told DAVAR yesterday that there has been no change in their perception of the substance of the council that should be elected to head the self-government administration.

Yesterday, the media reported that the Palestinians waived the demand to establish a legislative assembly, instead of which they had allegedly agreed to set up an administrative council for the self-government authority.

The subject was raised in the 20 July meeting with James Baker. The Palestinians presented their stand, while Baker suggested the possibility of establishing an administrative, rather than legislative council. "Baker did mention it, but the issue was not discussed at all," said a senior figure in the Palestinian delegation.

Hanan 'Ashrawi told DAVAR last night that "we have not started discussions as yet, so what is there to concede so soon?" According to her, the Palestinian demand for a legislative authority has not changed, and as far as she knew, Israel prefers a mere administrative authority. "However, when we sit down at the negotiating table, we will discuss that as well; we will argue and reach an agreement. Only then will there be room for public statements. What the Israelis and Americans are apparently doing is telling the press their wishes." [passage omitted]

Defense Pact Offered for Golan Withdrawal

TA2307085892 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Jul 92 pp 1, 13

[Report by Orly Azulay-Katz]

[Text] During his visit to Israel, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proposed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres the signing of a defense pact between the United States and Israel in return for readiness on the part of Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

According to Baker's proposal, Israel would relinquish the Golan Heights only after Syria expressed readiness to sign a full peace agreement, including open borders and diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the two countries, similar to the agreement Israel signed with Egypt.

Baker suggested that in return, the United States would sign a defense pact with Israel in the event of war with Syria. This pact would commit the United States to fight at Israel's side against Syria if the latter attacked Israel.

In order to stress the U.S. commitment, Baker also said that after the defense pact was signed, the United States would be willing to deploy U.S. military forces on the Golan Heights.

In the past, Secretary of State Baker made a similar offer to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who categorically rejected it. Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres also rejected Baker's proposal at this stage.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office did not deny the report but merely declined to make any comment.

Egypt Source Cited on Possible Washington Summit

TA2207184092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] A senior Egyptian source said that it was possible that the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the peace process would convene in Washington in several weeks. He claimed that the United States and Egypt were taking steps to guarantee the success of the summit and the arrival of the representatives of all the participants.

The source pointed out that some of these countries, and the Palestinians, had already agreed to send their representatives. The participation of Syria and Lebanon depends on the results of Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Damascus. This was reported by correspondent Yehoshu'a Me'iri.

IDF Confirms Raid on South Lebanon Target

TA2307054592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Report by military correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that Air Force planes raided terrorist targets in the area of Jabal Safi in Lebanon this morning. The targets hit served as outposts and launch sites for terrorist attacks by the Hizballah organization. The IDF spokesman reports that all our planes returned safely and that the pilots reported that the targets were hit. This was the 18th air raid against southern Lebanon this year. The last attack took place on 1 July.

Foreign news agencies in Lebanon report that the Air Force planes fired rockets at Hizballah bases in Iqlim al-Tuffah and that there have been no reports of casualties so far.

New Housing, Construction Policy Outlined

Statement on Construction Freeze

TA2307112392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Statement by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer in a news conference following the meeting between him and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat on the government's construction program, at the Finance Ministry in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Good day. First of all, our discussion was held in a very constructive atmosphere. I am saying this because, to my chagrin, we woke up this morning to various reports about data inconsistencies in the Construction and Housing Ministry. I must say that the figures that were presented at this table and which served as the basis for discussion were prepared by the Construction and Housing Ministry staff. To the best of my understanding, and in light of our constructive meeting, there were no disagreements regarding the data.

Second, I would like to start not with what we are stopping but with what will be continued. Let me state that current construction in Judaea and Samaria, in the areas where housing starts are in various stages of construction or, in other words, on 8,781 housing units, will not be stopped. Just for your information, we have not touched and also have no intention of touching the greater Jerusalem area, which includes the area of Ma'ale Adumim, Efrat, Betar, and Ma'ale Efrayim. Construction there continues as planned, and approximately 1,686 housing units are scheduled to be built there.

What are we going to halt? We are going to halt work on 3,136 unsigned contracts. These will not be signed. I am referring to areas in Judaea and Samaria. The second number is 3,545 housing units in Judaea and Samaria for which contracts have already been signed but construction has not begun. In other words, the total of these two figures—approximately 6,880 housing units—is the number of housing units we are halting immediately.

In light of all kinds of media reports, I would like to again clarify that purchases will continue. We are not going to stop any purchases from today, certainly not with regard to those projects which are in various stages of construction. I have also regrettably heard reports about foreign companies. This issue is still being discussed, and no decisions have been made.

As for the continuation of building in Israel, I would like to enlarge upon the finance minister's statements. We reached a decision today regarding approximately 3,000 housing units that were part of the program for continued construction throughout the entire country—excluding Judaea and Samaria—whose construction we decided to halt. A large proportion of this, or I would even say the greater part of this number, relates to those sites on which there is agreement but there are still no signed contracts.

I think that, in principle, I should underscore those statements previously made by the finance minister. Without making these decisions, this government cannot implement the goals that constitute its guidelines and strengthen Israel by means of a new order of priorities which calls for upgrading the infrastructure and resolving the problems of 250,000 unemployed people and of young couples and underprivileged neighborhoods. I thank you all very much.

Housing Start Statistics Disputed

TA2207144992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 p C1

[Report by Arye Lavi]

[Text] Contrary to tendentious reports recently published by elements in the territories and sources in the Construction and Housing Ministry, it appears that the number of housing starts in the territories, according to the Construction and Housing Ministry's programs, has reached 6,100 units and not 12,000 as reported to the media.

In addition, a HA'ARETZ probe revealed that, although the Construction and Housing Ministry's plans call for the establishment of approximately 20,000 housing units in the territories and the Golan Heights, construction work has actually begun on less than 30 percent of the apartments. Most of the building in the territories is concentrated in three settlements: Betar, Avney Hefetz, and Revava.

These settlements are a good example of what is happening in the entire field: The plans for Betar call for the establishment of 6,000 housing units, but construction has actually begun on only 1,200 units. Approximately 4,000 apartments were supposed to have been built in Revava, but work on only 250 has begun.

Approximately 3,500 housing units are in various stages of construction—ranging from the planning stage to actual construction—throughout dozens of other settlements in the West Bank. In fact, building work has only begun on about 3,000 apartments.

These include dozens of settlements including Mattityahu, Neve Daniyel, 'Ateret, Susya, Qedumim, Yitzhar, Ma'ale Efrayim, Psagot, Tzufim, Tzofar, 'Ofarim, Qoranit, Shorashim, Shilo, Shekhanya, Sha'al, Shaqed, Telem, Kfar Tapuah, Tfahot, Barqan, and Brakha.

It is also planned to set up 2,000 housing units on the Golan Heights, 1,000 of which are to be established in Qatzrin. In effect, work on 1,000 units has began in Qatzrin and approximately another 400 in settlements such as Elrom, Ramat Magshimim, Nov, and Avney Eytan.

Peace Now Submits Housing Survey

TA2207132792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] A survey by the Peace Now Movement, submitted to Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer this morning, states that more than 10,400 housing units are currently under construction in Judaea and Samaria, in addition to ground breaking work and the paving of bypass roads. In a news conference held today, Peace Now leaders demanded that the injection of money into the territories and the granting of benefits to settlers be stopped, and that the empty trailers be moved inside the Green Line boundaries.

Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that the spokesman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza says that there are actually 16,500 public construction starts, in addition to private construction. The council of Jewish settlements called on the Construction and Housing Minister not to let the settlements dry up.

New Program Outlined

TA2207161092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1305 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Let us begin with the new government's construction program. The agreement emerging in preparation for tomorrow's decision on the fate of construction in the territories is one whereby only apartments in which the floor has already been laid will be completed, while the construction of apartments in earlier building stages will be stopped. The data indicate that the construction of about 8,500 apartments will be canceled in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Greater Jerusalem area, excluding the city of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal is in our Jerusalem studio with initial details on the agreement emerging in preparation for tomorrow's discussion between the Finance and Construction and Housing Ministries:

[Tal] Tomorrow the finance and construction and housing ministers are supposed to conclude the work begun upon their assumption of duty, and data are already available. Joint teams from the two ministries have mapped the construction areas and presented an accurate picture of building starts which will be the basis for decisions. Well, construction falls into three [as heard] categories: A. Apartments which appeared in the [previous government's] program and which have not been handed out to building contractors yet. B. Apartments for which construction contracts have been signed but work has not begun yet. C. Apartments for which the foundations only have been laid. D. Apartments for which the floor has been completed already or which are in advance building stages.

According to the emerging agreement, construction will be completed only in those apartments where the floor already exists, while the construction of any apartment in earlier building stages will be canceled. Incidentally, this is one of the reasons why an effort had recently been made to reach the floor stage in many building sites.

It has already been decided to locate all sites where foreign companies are engaged in construction and to halt work there. At this very moment, the Construction and Housing Ministry is busy drawing conclusions, but it is already clear that construction will not stop at any site north of Haifa where the large villages and towns, with the greatest potential for immigrants' absorption, are located. In the Negev, where about 25,000 apartments are under construction, about 5,500 signed contracts will be canceled and the intention to sign new contracts will be withdrawn. In the center of the country, especially in Hadera, Or 'Aqiva, and Ashdod, construction will not be canceled at all. Construction in this area amounts to about 22 percent of building starts throughout the country.

In the territories, including the Greater Jerusalem, but excluding the unified city of Jerusalem, there have been approximately 20,000 building starts over the last two years. There, the construction of 8,500 apartments will be canceled, according to the following breakdown: 3,500 of the program apartments which have not been handed out to building contractors yet will not be handed out; contracts signed for the construction of 3,000 apartments whose construction has not yet begun will be canceled; and the building of an additional 2,000 apartments which have not reached the floor stage will be halted. In contrast, about 11,500 apartments in the territories have been completed already or will be completed; these apartments are in advance construction stages.

The main problem currently is what the government will do with more than 16,600 apartments which were bought from the construction companies in the framework of the previous government's purchase commitment. Incidentally, the government will face another such problem, involving about 3,200 apartments which are located in the south mainly. The workers in the construction field believe that the expected decisions will result in the dismissal of more than 13,000 laborers. [passage omitted]

'Extensive Cuts' Cited

TA2307104592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] In a joint news conference earlier today, the finance minister and the construction and housing minister announced extensive cuts in the building of homes and roads in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Paving of the new trans-Samaria road, the Nabulus bypass road, and several other roads described by the finance minister as political roads will stop. Work on several short bypass roads will continue. The finance minister stated that the money to be saved will be invested in solving what he termed the real transportation problems.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the construction and housing minister announced that the building of 8,700 apartments in the territories will continue and that building in the Jerusalem area will not be affected. Nevertheless, building will not begin on some 6,700 apartments in the territories for which contracts have not yet been signed or on which construction has not yet begun. Some 3,000 apartments planned within the boundaries of the Green Line will not be built either. The money saved from the halt in construction will amount to over 1 billion Israeli shekels.

Rabin Answers Knesset Questions on al-Najah

TA2207121592

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0905 GMT on 22 July begins a live relay from the Knesset building in Jerusalem of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's response to motions on the agenda regarding the al-Najah University incident and the curfew imposed on Nabulus last week. Rabin's remarks are broadcast in progress.

Rabin states that the precedent whereby a dialogue with family members or village mukhtars results in wanted people leaving the country for a limited period of time, "while signing a commitment that they will not be allowed to return if they violate Israel's law during their stay outside the country," was not created by him. Still, he declares: "I believe it was a wise decision, since this spares efforts by those Army units whose activity can then be focused on more dangerous wanted people, those who do not give themselves in, who are not willing to do so because their hands are stained with the blood of Israelis, both Jews and Arabs, and of Palestinians. They do not turn themselves in because they know their fate will be different."

According to Rabin, he could not be certain that the wanted people would be caught in a risky military action. Therefore, he decided on the option whereby the wanted people would turn themselves in and leave for Jordan. Moreover, he said, "for the first time, a Palestinian leadership took part in this act of agreeing to a voluntary deportation, if we may call it that." Rabin stresses: "The decision is made on the political level, by the prime minister and defense minister. I believe I did the right thing." If the wanted people do not behave properly during the coming three years, he said, "they will not be allowed to return." Rabin declares that by the course of action he chose, "I eliminated the option—possibly unavoidable under different circumstances—that may have endangered the lives of IDF, Israel Defense Forces, soldiers as well as resulted in bloodshed among students who may not be angels but are not terrorists either." Still, Rabin hopes that "we will not face such circumstances any more."

Rabin adds that the instructions issued to IDF soldiers on handling lawbreakers and terrorists are very clear. He emphasizes: "To the extent possible, and this is our desire, we will continue the political negotiations but, at the same time and regardless of the continued negotiations, we will act with full force against terror and lawbreakers, against violence used as a political tool by the Palestinians in the territories, within the limits of the law. Let there be no misunderstanding on this issue: The instructions to the IDF and the other security forces are crystal clear—to fight terrorism and intifadah with full force, and with all legal means." Rabin concludes by asking the Knesset plenum to strike all motions on the subject from the agenda.

Rabin's speech is followed by several motions by various Knesset members. Likud's 'Uzi Landau, Tzomet's Gonen Segev, and the National Religious Party's Yig'al Bibi voiced their criticism of the moves involved in the al-Najah crisis, asking that the issue be passed on to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for further discussion. Hashim Mahamid of HADASH, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, and 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party congratulated Mr. Rabin for having made a decision that prevented bloodshed.

At 0930 GMT the Knesset votes to support Rabin's call to strike all motions on the subject off the agenda.

IDF Searches Palestinian Team Member's House

TA2207134192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Early this morning an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force broke into the house of Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, a member of the Palestinian team for the political talks, and searched it without furnishing any explanation. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that al-Agha complained about this to Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker of Meretz, and Zucker sent a telegram of protest to the prime minister and defense minister, asking for a clarification. The IDF is looking into MK Zucker's complaint.

Muhammad Khalil Kab'ah, 30, was killed in the village of Ya'bad near Janin last night by a border policeman's fire in the course of security forces' activity in the village. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a local resident, an 18-year-old youth, was detained for interrogation.

IDF Denies Searching Home

TA2207183492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] In response to Gaza notable Dr. Zakariya al-Agha's complaint that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers entered his home this morning and locked him and his family in one of the rooms, the IDF spokesman's representative at the Southern Command said that the commander of the force decided to station a lookout post on the roof of al-Agha's building, which is the tallest building in the area. The commander said that the soldiers did not search al-Agha's home, adding that they removed the lookout post when their job was done.

Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that Dr. al-Agha lives on the second floor of a four-story building. Al-Agha asserted that the soldiers remained only in his apartment and did not enter the other ones.

Hamas, Fatah Exchange Accusations Over Agreement

JN2007195992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jul 92

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid, radio correspondent in Gaza, carried within "With the Events" program]

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] issued a statement lashing out strongly against Fatah for violating an agreement signed by the two parties on 10 July. The statement says that Hamas movement was committed to all articles of the agreement. However, the statement claims, Fatah activists violated the agreement last Friday [17 July] when they attacked three Hamas activists. The statement says that Hamas will not adopt an indifferent stand on Fatah attempts to attack its activists. The statement says that Hamas will respond unless Fatah apologizes for the attacks carried out by its activists last Friday. Complete calm prevailed throughout the Gaza Strip today and no incidents worth mentioning between the two sides were reported.

Meanwhile, a follow-up committee is continuing efforts to implement the agreement. This was reported by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hayy, mayor of al-Tirah and member of the follow-up committee, who said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Hayy] Yesterday, we met with representatives of both Hamas and Fatah. We also visited Bani Suhaylah, Khan Yunus, and some areas in the Gaza Strip. We reached an agreement providing that there will be no violations of the reconciliation agreement signed by the two parties.

[Abu-Zayid] Yes. How do you interpret Hamas' issuance of a statement in which it categorically holds Fatah responsible for violating the agreement?

['Abd-al-Hayy] So far, the follow-up committee has not started its work. The reconciliation committee cannot determine which side is responsible. Responsibility has yet to be determined. Determining who committed the actual violation falls within the investigating committee's jurisdiction. I am surprised that any party should issue a leaflet accusing the other side of violating the agreement, especially since the investigating committee has not yet started work.

[Abu-Zayid] You are referring to last Friday's attack by Fatah supporters on Hamas activists in Rafah?

[Abd-al-Hayy] The Rafah incident has been contained. The situation there is very calm. There are no problems in Rafah.

[Abu-Zayid] Mr. Tariq 'Abd-al-Hayy, was yesterday's meeting between the two sides successful?

['Abd-al-Hayy] The meeting was very successful. We managed to bring the two sides together under the same roof. We discussed all matters concerning the consolidation of the two sides' reconciliation agreement. I believe the situation is excellent in the area, with the exception of minor violations that took place in Rafah and in Bani Suhaylah.

[Abu-Zayid] Will the follow-up committee return to the Gaza Strip?

['Abd-al-Hayy] The follow-up committee is continuing its work, and visits to Gaza and all other areas that we need to visit will also continue. [end recording]

Hamas Signs Agreements With Rejectionist Front

TA2207131192 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Jul 92 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Last week, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] signed two agreements with Damascus-based rejectionist organizations: the anti-PLO Palestine National Salvation Front headed by Khalid al-Fahum, and Ahmad Jibril's organization. Palestinian sources in the territories told our correspondent that the agreements reflect an understanding between Saudi Arabia and Syria regarding the need to hinder the political process as long as it reinforces the positions of Jordan and the Palestinian delegation. The agreements were signed in Damascus, and no additional details on them are available. It is believed that in the wake of the agreements, Saudi Arabia is liable to extend financial support to al-Fahum and Ahmad Jibril's organizations.

Baker Remarks on Settlements 'Encouraging'

JN2207111192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Unchangeable Facts"]

[Text] It was encouraging to hear U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reject Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's differentiation between "political" and "security" settlements in the occupied Arab territories. This U.S. position, while not in itself new or necessarily tailored to be music to Arab ears, should go some distance in assuaging Arab fears about an impending deal over the question of the loan guarantees being hatched by the Americans and the Israelis at the expense of the Arabs. Mr. Baker's statement is most positive and significant when seen in the light of the level of detailed discussions the secretary of state held with Israeli leaders on the issue of the loan guarantees.

It was particularly heartening to hear that a senior State Department official had said that the Americans wanted the deal on the loan guarantees to meet "Israeli and Palestinian needs as well as ours." Sure enough, the Palestinians would insist that a deal between the U.S. and Israel over the loan guarantees would not compromise Palestinian territorial rights in the West Bank and Gaza. While the Palestinians may see flexibility on Israel's part by freezing settlement, they see no reward in it. As the Americans have repeatedly said the settlements are a major obstacle to peace. Nor should the Arabs be expected to offer Israel any rewards for halting settlement.

While the Israelis are rewarded by a U.S. commitment to settle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Palestinian refugees who left their homes in Palestine only in 1948 and in 1967 are still stranded in refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the occupied territories themselves. We agree with Mr. Baker that there is a "new opportunity to move forward" in the peace process. Much of the recent optimism had generated from changes in Israel itself. The Arabs have always sought to settle the Middle East conflict on the basis of international legitimacy—Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories based on UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and an exchange of land for peace.

Chief Negotiator Discusses Baker Tour

NC2307101192 Cairo MENA in English 0826 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Amman, July 23 (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, chief Jordanian negotiator to the peace talks with Israel, said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not come to the region with a new specific project, but came to probe the Israeli stance. He said Baker is more optimistic than before and came to stress to the parties concerned that the United States is still seriously seeking in earnest to boost the peace march.

Al-Majali told MENA that Baker went to Israel and came to announce that the new Israeli government of Yitzhak Rabin is serious in seeking peace and ready to pursue the march and eliminate many obstacles impeding it.

Al-Majali, who took part in the recent American-Jordanian meetings, said that King Husayn welcomed such statements and wished that such talk be translated into serious work as soon as possible in order not to lose the present opportunity.

On reports about Washington's invitation to a Palestinian delegation and to an Israeli one to hold talks in the American capital, Al-Majali said he does not believe that Baker had extended an invitation to the Palestinians alone. Baker himself denied this, pointing out that media reports about Israel's attempt to speak with the Palestinians aside is untrue, al-Majali said.

On Rabin's offer to grant self-rule to the Palestinians, al-Majali said there is nothing new in Rabin's offer as self-rule for the Palestinians during a transitional phase was the core of the issue as came in the Madrid invitation, but the Likud government complicated many matters. He expressed hope for Rabin to be more broad-minded in his outlook for the Palestinian right than his predecessors.

Al-Majali, who is to take part in the Damascus meeting tomorrow, said Arab coordination existed before any round of talks, adding that the Arab parties to the peace talks have met in Beirut, Damascus and Amman.

Palestinian Negotiators Arrive, Meet Bin-Shakir

JN2207192092 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office this evening Faysal al-Husayni, head of the head of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian team to the peace negotiations; Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the delegation. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the next stage of the peace process, as well as the coordinating ministerial meeting, which the negotiating Arab parties will hold in Damascus the day after tomorrow, Friday. The meeting was attended by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; engineer 'Ali al-Suhaymat, deputy prime minister and transport minister; and Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation for the peace process, arrived in Amman today en route to Damascus to participate in the meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestine, which will be held in Damascus on 24 July to coordinate the positions of the Arab parties participating in the peace process, especially in

the upcoming sixth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations to be held in Rome on a date that has not yet been officially set.

In a statement to PETRA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinians are eager to make the meeting a success and to achieve a high level of coordination among the Arab parties participating in the negotiations. He added: We are going to the meeting with an open mind and a strong desire to promote coordination between parties taking part in the negotiations.

The head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation rejected Rabin's statements on settlements and autonomy, and said that the Palestinians are insisting on a total suspension of settlements, do not distinguish between political and security settlements, are rejecting the limited autonomy rule plan, and are insisting on an interim Palestinian self-rule with full powers and sovereignty over land, resources, and population and that they want to be enabled to gain their full legitimate rights. He also said: The real test of the seriousness of Rabin's statements will be the upcoming round of negotiations. We cannot judge it now, he said, and stressed that they do not meet the Palestinian aspirations. He was accompanied by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. Faysal al-Husayn, head of the Advisory Council, arrived later.

Information Minister's BBC Interview Noted

JN1907124392 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Jul 92 p 24

[Text] London—Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has warned against the danger of renewed conflict in the region unless the United Nations abandons its demand to inspect the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, he said hints by some officials in Washington about the possibility of using military force to deal with the situation is an alarming development that does not indicate a sense of responsibility.

Al-Sharif called for showing wisdom and farsightedness in searching for a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

He added that the Arab world does not understand the reason for the continuation of sanctions on Iraq after its withdrawal from Kuwait and after it complied with the UN instructions by destroying its arsenal of nuclear and chemical weapons.

The information minister said the legitimacy of the sanctions is over, and it is illogical to continue punishing a nation of 18 million people who have suffered enough.

In particular, al-Sharif expressed concern about statements made by ranking U.S. officials earlier this week in which they strongly hinted about the possibility of a military strike to Iraq to force it to comply with the UN instructions.

In this respect, the information minister said: I believe that it is something bad that causes concern. I think it lacks farsightedness. I do not think that the current situation should be escalated because some inspectors were unable to enter the Ministry of Agriculture, and therefore, they decide to launch a war. I think this implies a risk and does not indicate a sense of responsibility.

Parliament Rejects Call for Embargo on Iran

JN2107092692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jul 92 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Several groups of leftist and Arab national political activists and individuals have issued a joint call on the United Nations Security Council to impose an arms and oil embargo against Iran for attacking a camp of Iranian dissidents in Iraq last April. The call was immediately disowned by Parliament.

A statement released by Lower House members 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah and Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad also accused the Iranian government of violating the human rights of the Iranian people and urged U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to seek Security Council action against Tehran.

House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the call did not represent a formal or informal move by the House.

Dr. 'Arabiyat, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood which maintains cordial relations with the Iranian government, said that he had not seen any such memorandum; the House had neither discussed the subject nor issued any statement.

"We in Jordan seek to settle differences and unite the (Islamic) Ummah against the dangers that threaten its existence and future," the speaker said, raising questions about the purpose and timing of the anti-Iranian call.

"We reject any foreign interference in the affairs of the Islamic affair...," he said. [as published]

According to Sunday's communique, six Upper House and 29 Lower House members were among the signatories to the call. Other signatories were described as "political personalities."

Conspicuously absent was any member of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in Parliament, and, according to informed sources, the movement was not approached by the sponsors of the statement.

"We are not aware of any such statement or of any approach to the Brotherhood bloc for endorsement," said Amman Deputy Humam Sa'id, a prominent member of the movement.

Dr. Sa'id declined any comment on the substance of the call saying "we have to see the actual contents before saying anything about it."

Mr. al-Tarawinah, a deputy from al-Karak, cited several principles which he said were behind his stance in taking a leading position in the call for international action against Iran.

These include "the absence of democracy in Iran and the government's violation of human rights and its oppressive internal policies against the people of Iran."

"The Iranian government represents neither the people of Iran nor their aspirations," Mr. al-Tarawinah said, condemning the Tehran regime for its eight-year war with Iraq. "The Iranian government's claims of being Islamic and of battling world imperialism are hollow."

The full list of those issuing the call against Iran was not immediately available. The Jordan Times learnt that leftist groups and activists had taken the lead in formulating the statement. While the absence of the Brotherhood could be attributed to the religious-oriented position of the fundamentalist group, other deputies appeared to have stayed away for varying reasons, including their sensitive position as members of the Cabinet. Ten house members are ministers in the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Salim al-Zu'bi, a pan-Arab nationalist deputy from Irbid, said he was approached for endorsement of the call but refused, saying that he opposed any call for an embargo on any country.

"While I condemn the human rights violations in Iran and the Iranian attack on the (Mujahidin), I cannot support a call for any country since I oppose the sanctions imposed against iraq," Mr. al-Zu'bi explained in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Monday.

Among the signatories to the statement were Senate members 'Umar al-Nabulsi and Husni 'Ayish, deputies Dhib Marji (Irbid), Ibrahim al-Ghababishah (al-Tafileh), Husni al-Shayyab (Irbid), Fakhri Qa'war (al-Balqa) and Sa'd Haddadin (Madaba), according to Mujahedeen sources. No confirmation was immediately available from the parliamentarians named by the source.

According to the source, others included "leading writers, trade union activists and leaders of professional associations." Again the source did not provide names.

The statement said: "As different countries of the world strive towards the establishment of peace, democracy and international cooperation, the mullahs ruling Iran continue their policies in violating of international standards and laws.

"...The violations...took on serious dimensions when on April 5 the regime's air force breached international borders and bombed one of the bases of the National Liberation Army of Iran (Mujahidin) deep inside Iraqi territory...this action shows the regime's fear of the resistance on the one hand and, noting its campaign to procure nuclear weapons, reflects a serious threat to peace and stability in the region on the other...

"The extremely sensitive situation in the region makes a resolute response by the international community against the Iranian regime imperative. The special role of the U.N. Security Council in current world affairs makes it incumbent on the council to condemn the Iranian regime...and impose an oil and arms embargo on the regime before the region is once again engulfed by an all-embracing crisis..." [elipses as published]

Statements along the same lines have been issued by parliamentarians in Europe, the United States and Canada, reflecting what many political observers describe as growing Western concern over Iranian intentions and the inroads that the diplomatically aggressive Mujahidin have made into international political circles.

Secretary of State Baker Holds Talks 23 Jul

Meets With Buwayz

NC2307091092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0854 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Here is a flash from the news desk: The meeting between U.S. Secretary James Baker and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz is being held [as heard] at the president's house in Zahlah. President Ilyas al-Hirawi is expected to participate.

Meets With al-Hirawi, al-Sulh

NC2307102992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese-U.S. talks opened at the president's home in Zahlah at 1230 this afternoon. President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz are participating in the talks on the Lebanese side, while U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in Zahlah from Damascus, is representing the U.S. side.

Concludes Meeting

NC2307131592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz ended a short time ago. The meeting, held at President al-Hirawi's home in Zahlah, dealt with resuming the peace talks after the Israeli Government's formation under Yitzhaq Rabin.

Officials Return From Funeral of al-Asad's Mother

NC2207055092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, and a number of ministers, deputies, and political and spiritual leaders returned from Damascus after attending the funeral of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's mother, Na'isah, who died yesterday. They extended their condolences to al-Asad in al-Qardahah.

Border Area Strikes Against Parliamentary Election

NC2307083292 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The border area today observed a general strike to protest the proposed parliamentary election. All public and private institutions closed down and border and northern area crossings are closed to traffic.

Christian Areas Paralyzed

NC2307084092 Paris AFP in English 0813 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, July 23 (AFP)—Lebanese Christians staged a general strike on Thursday against the pro-Syrian government's plans to hold a general election, with only pharmacies and bread shops remaining open.

The Christian community is fiercely opposed to the staging of the elections while Syrian forces are still deployed in the country, but the government of Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has pressed ahead with the plans regardless.

Petrol stations, restaurants and sandwich stands, which usually stay open during such strikes, shut down as the stoppage paralysed Christian areas throughout the country.

The strike was also underway in the Israeli-controlled "security zone" of southern Lebanon and in the nearby Muslim-Shiite dominated town of al-Khiyam, where a meeting was being held under the slogan: "No elections."

Army Resumes Weapons Sweeps, To Last One Month

NC2307075392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army today resumed the sweeps it began yesterday in implementing Cabinet decisions. The operation, which will include every Lebanese area, will last a month. Yesterday, the Army made several sweeps of the southern suburb, al- Hamra', al-Ashrafiyah, Sinn al-Fil, and areas in the mountain and al-Shuf. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Army has expanded its deployment in the areas of 'Alayh, al-Shuf, and Beirut to reassure citizens who want to return to their villages.

[In a similar report, Paris AFP in English at 1527 GMT on 22 July adds the following:

["The Lebanese Army combed through businesses and homes here Wednesday in a search for light weapons banned by the government early this month.

["On 1 July the government gave the population a 20-day grace period to turn in their light arms or face prosecution. The authorities said not a single person had complied with the request.

["According to unofficial estimates, two in three Lebanese families have some form of light weapon, typically a Kalashnikov assault rifle, handgun or light submachinegun.

["Soldiers began on Tuesday searching the al-Hamra' business district, in predominantly Muslim west Beirut, with the intention of confiscating weapons and sending their owners to court.

["Army units also went through apartment blocks housing Shiite squatters, some of whom have close ties with the pro-Iranian Hizballah.

["The pro-Syrian government of Rashid al-Sulh imposed the arms ban ahead of general elections later this summer and the return of hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the 16-year civil war.

["Analysts here are skeptical about the success of the operation, which comes 18 months after the army disbanded secular and religious militias which ruled the country during the war.

["The militias handed in their heavy weapons in December 1990 under the intercommunal al-Ta'if peace accords designed to end the fighting.

["Lebanon's overstretched 35,000-man army is unlikely to confront the militias, which still have their lights weapons and most of whose leaders are members of the government.

["Syria, the major power broker in the region, recently rejected a U.S. request to disarm Hizballah or Palestinians in southern and eastern strongholds, pro-Syrian sources said in Beirut.

["Such a step would depend on progress made in Middle East peace talks, they said.

["Christian MP Edmond Rizg cast doubts on the operation Monday. 'A government incapable of collecting rubbish in the streets should be more modest and stop trying to collect weapons.'"]

Hizballah Warns of 'Harsh' Response to Sabotage

NC2307085492 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] A responsible security source told our correspondent a short time ago that when intense efforts are being made to achieve peace, security, and calm for the area's population, it is not sensible for Hizballah to continue acts of sabotage against South Lebanese and Israeli Army forces if they don't respond.

The source said the response will be harsh and very painful for the villages from which such acts originate. These villages are well known as are the personnel who collaborate with the saboteur organization. The source added: We reiterate our advice to innocent civilians in these villages that they and their families should keep away from the saboteurs' positions, weapon hideouts, and depots, where explosives, rockets, and other weapons are stored. The aim is to ensure their safety so that Hizballah will not use them as a protective shield against potential retaliation.

The security source told our correspondent that all these sabotage plans emanate from Tehran and are implemented in the area without considering the safety of its innocent people.

Israelis Continue Operations in South

Iqlim al-Tuffah Raided

NC2307061292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] In an urgent report, AFP reported that Israeli aircraft raided Iqlim al-Tuffah region at 0730 today. The agency gave no further details.

Zionist warplanes reportedly raided the hills of Mlita, Jabal al-Akhdar, and Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah, firing four rockets on the targets. The Islamic resistance ground defenses confronted the enemy aircraft. REUTER, citing security sources, added that the raid targeted resistance fighters' positions in southern Lebanon in retaliation for resistance attacks in the past two days, in which one Israeli soldier was killed and five others were wounded.

[Paris AFP in English at 0457 GMT, quoting "security sources," reports the following: "The warplanes attacked Hizballah positions on the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, about 15 km (nine miles) south of Sidon at 0430 GMT. There was no word on any casualties."]

Two Wounded in Eight Raids

NC2307090492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] This morning's Israeli air raids on Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, primarily Mlita, Mlikh, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, and the Radar hill, lasted one hour. Eight raids were carried out, during which more than 20 rockets were fired and shrapnel reached Jarju'. The noise could be heard in nearby areas.

No official casualty report is available, but security sources said two people were wounded.

The Iqlim al-Tuffah raids coincided with Israeli-Lahdist shelling of the area.

An Israeli military spokesman acknowledged the air raid.

South Lebanese Army Commander Agent Antoine Lahd warned southern villagers to stay away from resistance positions.

Gunmen Kill FRC Spokesman Walid Khalid

NC2307094192 Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Beirut, July 23 (AFP)—Gunmen on Thursday shot dead Walid Khalid, spokesman for Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] radical Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), the group announced.

The killers riddled Khalid's car with bullets near the Palestinian refugee camp of Mar Ilyas in southern Beirut.

It was the latest killing in a feud which has split the organisation, which is violently opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat.

On July 9, a gunman shot dead Bahij Abu-al-Hana, the head of the Abu-Nidal organisation in Lebanon's Biqa' valley.

The FRC, which was expelled from Syria in June 1987, has offices in Syrian-controlled areas of Lebanon.

New Election Bill's Seats Distribution Detailed

NC2207095292 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
17 Jul 92 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies yesterday endorsed the election bill by 64 votes to 13, drawing to a close one era in Lebanon's political history and opening a new one. The bill set 15 October 1992 as the date the current Chamber's term will expire. The inhabitants of the occupied border zone will cast their ballots in areas controlled by the Lebanese state, outside the border zone, where UN troops are present. The only amendment to the bill cancels a paragraph in Article Eight, which now stipulates that the election result will be endorsed in the areas where voting takes place. In those regions where elections cannot be held, they will be staged at a later date when circumstances permit. [passage omitted]

The following are the bill's most important points:

1. There are 128 deputies.
2. Electoral constituencies: The Governorates in Beirut, the south, and the north. In al-Biqa' and the mountain, the District.
3. The sectarian and factional distribution of seats: Some 27 for the Sunnites, 27 for the Shiites, 34 for the Maronites, 8 for the Druze, 8 for the Greek Catholics, 14 for the Greek Orthodox, 2 for the 'Alawites, 1 for the Anglicans, 1 for the Armenian Catholics, 5 for the Armenian Orthodox, and 1 for the other Christian minorities. [passage omitted]

Former President Sulayman Franjiyah Dies

NC2307052992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Excerpt] Lebanon has lost one of its great patriotic men, former president Sulayman Franjiyah, champion of the slogan My Homeland is Always Right.

Franjiyah passed away at the American University Hospital at dawn today, and his body was taken to Zgharta. Bells in the town and other northern areas rang in mourning for him. [passage omitted]

State Mourning Announced

NC2307100i92 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0800 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The presidential headquarters Protocol Directorate issued the following statement: President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Rashid al- Sulh, the ministers, members of the Chamber of Deputies, and the Franjiyah family announce the death of former President Sulayman Franjiyah, who died this morning.

A national funeral procession will be held for the late president and its proceedings will be announced later.

State mourning is announced, and flags are to fly at half mast over state buildings and public institutions for seven days beginning today, Thursday 23 July 1992, during which radio and television stations are to stop music programs.

Secretary Baker Arrives in Latakia 22 Jul

Met by al-Shar'

JN2207182092 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived at Humaymim Airport in Latakia at 1845 today. He was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. Mr. Baker is accompanied by a delegation made up of Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs; Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department; and Christopher Ross, ambassador of the United States in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Receives Baker

JN2207184892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1835 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the delegation accompanying him at 1930 today.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad-Baker Talks 'Positive'

JN2307050092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the delegation accompanying him yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

The talks dealt with the peace process in light of the new developments in the region, the American position vis-a-vis these developments, and the issues that would emerge once the bilateral peace talks are resumed.

Answering questions by journalists upon his return from Latakia last night, Baker described his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad as good. Also answering journalists' questions, Faruq al-Shar' said that the president's talks with Baker were positive.

'Real Efforts' Made for Peace

JN2307110092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held a joint news conference this morning. Mr. Baker said: We concluded our talks with President Hafiz al-Asad and Mr. al-Shar' last night. The talks were good. He added: We spoke about the peace process in the wake of the change of the Israeli Government as well as the situation in Lebanon and bilateral issues. Mr. Baker thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for meeting him despite the circumstances resulting from the death of his mother.

Al-Shar' then said President Bush and Mr. Baker made real efforts to render the peace process possible in the region. The foreign minster hoped the new developments will help all parties concerned with the peace process to resume the talks as soon as possible. He said President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with Mr. Baker were positive, frank, and fruitful and will serve the peace process in the region.

Press on Efforts To Achieve Regional Peace

JN2207134992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Press review]

[Text] TISHRIN discusses Syria's efforts to achieve peace, saying: Syria has always supported a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It has continuously called for it on every occasion. President Hafiz al-Asad has repeatedly said that we, in Syria, are not warmongers and callers for destruction. Indeed, we are struggling to ward off harm from our homeland and nation and protect our land and people.

TISHRIN says that it is Israel that has exercised the policy of aggression since its establishment in Palestine and adopted the iron fist and scorched earth policies. It is the one that raids Lebanon and represses the Palestinian people. It is Israel that destroyed the city of al-Qunaytirah and announced the annexation of the Golan in violation of all international resolutions.

Hence, Syria focused on achieving a just and comprehensive peace. It sincerely and responsibly responded to the U.S. initiative when it adopted the land for peace principle, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the need to halt settlement activities throughout the occupied territories.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria, which did it best to give a push to the peace process and participate in it until the end of the road cannot but warn against the dangers of the new Israeli game as it has previously warned against the prevarications of Shamir's government. Only a just peace will be the real road to stability, security, and progress in the Middle East.

AL-THAWRAH comments on the meeting due to be held in Damascus on Friday by the foreign ministers of the Arab countries engaged in the peace process in the presence of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco. The paper says: This meeting is of special importance. It is not just because of the difficult circumstances the region has been facing since the end of the cold war but also due to the critical and complicated circumstances engulfing the peace process as a result of past and current Israeli stands which did not declare

their commitment to the bases of a just and comprehensive settlement to the region's crisis represented by the resolutions of international legitimacy and the exchange of land for peace.

In its commentary, AL-BA'TH comments on the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region which, according to him, seeks to give momentum to the peace process. The paper notes the policy of maneuvering adopted by the enemy government to win world public opinion and get what it wants from the United States, particularly the loan guarantees. AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs have done all that they could to render the peace process a success. All parties admit that Syria opened the door to the peace process when it accepted the well-known U.S. land-for-peace initiative. This proves the seriousness of the Arabs and Syria on the need to achieve tangible progress that serves the peace process.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the prerequisites for peace are clear and documented at the United Nations. Whoever wants a just peace must officially announce his full and unconditional commitment to these prerequisites. Anything else cannot serve a just and comprehensive peace and remains a mere maneuver to gain time and more support and then move on to a new stage in the policy of aggression and expansion.

India

Ayodhya Temple Crisis Causes Continued Problems

Parliament Adjourns Again

BK2307100492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Proceedings in Parliament have been paralyzed for the second day today over the Ayodhya issue. Both houses could not carry out any work as the non-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] opposition stalled the business demanding immediate central intervention to stop the construction work at Ayodhya. Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha witnessed noisy scenes right from the start and had to be adjourned within minutes after several National Front and left party members stormed into the well.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned first till 1400 and later for the whole day as the unruly scenes continued. The scene was no better in the Rajya Sabha which also rose for the day after the first adjournment till 1430.

In the Lok Sabha, the National Front-Left Front combine, the Muslim League and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha members demanded suspension of the question hour. Several of them resorted to slogan shouting and came into the well of the house. When the sitting resumed at 1400, they demanded that the prime minister should be called in the house taking into confidence about the steps the government proposes to take to implement the court orders. The BJP members were also seen raising some issues and waving copies of a newspaper, but nothing was audible. With the opposition members in no mood to allow the proceedings, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, adjourned the house for the day.

The Rajya Sabha also could not transact any business. Soon after the house met this morning, the National Front, left parties and Janata Dal-S members walked into the well and stalled the proceedings. They demanded immediate response from the home minister, who was present in the house, on the Ayodhya developments and dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government. The Congress-I members also wanted to know the steps being taken to stop the ongoing construction work. The BJP and non-BJP members traded charges, but nothing could be heard in the din. Some Janata Dal-S members were heard blaming the Congress-I of inaction and said the government has forfeited its claim to continue in office. When persuasion failed to restore order, the deputy chairman, Dr. Najma Heptullah, adjourned the house first till 1430 and later for the day as noisy scenes continued.

Premier Consults BJP Leaders

BK2307033892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao had consultations with senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders in New Delhi yesterday to find a way to defuse the situation in Ayodhya. Those who attended the meeting included Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Atul Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. (Muli Manohan Jushi), and Mrs. (V.J. Arajee Sinthia). In Uttar Pradesh, the Faizabad District authorities are continuing efforts to persuade the Sadhus [mendicants] and VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council] leaders to stop construction work at Ayodhya. The state government is also in touch with the concerned parties for compliance of the court orders. Meanwhile, the construction work at the Shilanyas [foundation] site is reported to be continuing. The situation in the twin cities of Faizabad and Ayodhya is reported peaceful. The Supreme Court will review hearing on a batch of petitions seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the chief minister and the government of Uttar Pradesh and others for violation of the court orders in the Ayodhya case. The division bench of the apex court yesterday adjourned a hearing on the request of counsel for the UP chief minister who said that he will consult all the parties in the construction activity and report back to the court. The Supreme Court said it will consider the entire dispute regarding the legality of the acquired land in Ayodhya and whether a Ram temple could be built on it if the state government undertakes to stop all construction activities. In Lucknow, the chief standing counsel of the UP government has denied any violation of the interim order of the Lucknow bench of the high court or the Supreme Court on the Ayodhya issue. This was contained in an affidavit filed before the special Lucknow bench chairing the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid cases. Counsel said that the state government is fully committed to protect the disputed structure and arrangements are being made to ensure its safety. Meanwhile, four former chief justices of the Rajasthan, Guwahati, Punjab and Haryana, and Allahabad High Courts have offered to assist the special bench of the Allahabad High Court in Lucknow in arriving at a decision on the petitions challenging the Uttar Pradesh government orders acquiring land in Ayodhya. The former chief justices moved a joint application before the special bench yesterday.

High Court: Construction Must End

BK2207125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Supreme Court today asked the Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] government to unconditionally halt all construction activities on the acquired land around the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid structure. It says only then it will take up any proposal by the state for solving the Ram temple issue.

A division bench comprising Mr. Justice M.M. Venkatachelliah and Mr. Justice G.N. Ray gave this order after the counsel for the state government, Mr. K.K. Venugopal, suggested that the apex court should decide the whole issue on whether the land was validly acquired and whether Ram temple could be built on it. The bench was hearing a batch of petitions seeking initiation of

contempt against the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister Mr. Kalyan Singh, and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] for putting up a permanent structure on the acquired land in violation of orders of the high court and the Supreme Court.

Mr. Justice Venkatachelliah made it clear that while offering to solve the issue, the court should not be considered to be striking a bargain with the state government. The court said it would wait till tomorrow for the U.P. Government to talk to all parties concerned regarding the proposal as well as the unconditional stoppage of work. Only then would the court pass orders.

BJP Unable To Implement Order

BK2207161792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] New Delhi, July 22 (AFP)—The party ruling India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh said Wednesday it was unable to implement a supreme court order to halt an explosive Hindu temple building drive in the town of Ayodhya.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP or Indian People's Party) could not put the order into effect because of the possibility of a grave law and order situation, party spokesman J P. Mathur told a press conference here.

Mathur was speaking hours after the supreme court ruled that the BJP state government "unconditionally" halt construction of the Hindu temple.

Militant Hindus, led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu council) which is an ally of the BJP, have for the last two weeks been building a temple to their Lord Rama near the site of an ancient 16th century mosque.

The two-judge bench gave the BJP 24 hours to hold consultations with militant Hindus working on the disputed temple site before enforcement of the order.

The central government quietly moved 1,700 Central Reserve Police Force personnel into Ayodhya on Tuesday as a deadlock between secular parties and the radical temple builders triggered Hindu-Moslem riots elsewhere in the country.

However, BJP Vice President K.R. Malkani said that any use of force by the federal government "would be wholly misconceived," adding that "the center will be wholly responsible for any consequences that may follow."

Meanwhile, police in Delhi arrested scores of youths and students protesting outside Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's house over the temple construction.

The protestors from the youth wings of centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), one of the non-BJP opposition parties vigorously campaigning against the Hindu drive, demanded that the federal government intervene in the matter.

Those arrested were charged with violating prohibitory orders, police said, adding that there was no violence.

Hundreds have died in Hindu-Moslem riots in Hindu-majority India in the past seven years over the Ayodhya temple-mosque dispute, which caused the fall of a federal government in 1990.

In the last three days, secular centrist and leftist MP's have thrown both houses of the federal parliament into chaos calling for government action to stop the temple construction and for the dismissal of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

The ruling Congress (I) party welcomed the court order, and said it was now up to the BJP to see that it was implemented.

Congress (I) spokesman V.N. Gadgil said the order had vindicated the government's stand that construction of the temple was unconstitutional.

In passing the order Supreme Court Justice Venkatachalliah described the situation in Ayodhya as "edging dangerously to one of flouting the Constitution by the concerned parties putting up the construction."

UP 'Trying' To Implement Order

BK2207161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The UP [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has proposed that fresh efforts jointly by the center and the state should be made to persuade the parties involved in the construction work at Ayodhya for the compliance of court orders. In a statement issued in Lucknow today, the chief minister said that the state government is in constant touch with the parties and is trying to get the court order implemented. He claimed that the construction activities going on in Ayodhya will in no way endanger the disputed structure.

'Voice of Sanity' Urged

BK2207105592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Pushpeshwar Rao commentary]

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee's decision to wait for the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case reflects its sober and mature approach. There is a need to move with caution in view of the ground realities. The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC-I] apparently realizes this. That the ruling party faces an unenviable task is obvious. The prime minister has done well in making efforts to evolve a consensus on the issue. Mr. Narasimha Rao's talks with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] and the meeting of the National Integration Council are the signs of this approach. But no decision has been possible because political opinion is sharply divided over the issue.

The CWC-I met late last night apparently to find a way out to strike a balance between popular sentiments and the need to ensure that the rule of law prevails. The prime minister has made it clear that the Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] government's failure to carry out the court order would be tantamount to breakdown of the Constitution. But he has expressed the hope that the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh, will abide by his assurance that he would honor the court order. In a telephonic conversation with the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, Mr. Kalyan Singh has said that the state government is continuing its efforts for the implementation of the court order on the ongoing activities in Ayodhya. The situation that exists today that thousands of sadhus [mendicants] are doing kar seva [voluntary service] in Ayodhya for the construction of the Ram temple despite the Allahabad high court order. The order is applicable to the U.P. government which claims that it has been persuading sadhus to heed the court order. Simultaneously, the Supreme Court is seized of the matter.

The need of the hour is that the voice of sanity should be heard. Nothing should be done that creates communal tension or otherwise between the center and the state. The ruling party would do well to ensure that the Supreme Court acts fast.

Planning Commission Member Resigns Over 'Scam'

BK2207163692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Member of the Planning Commission, Mr. V. Krishnamurti, has submitted his resignation to the Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao, who is also the chairman of the commission. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the resignation was under consideration of the prime minister. Mr. Krishnamurti reportedly resigned because of his association with the controversial (Fairgo Financial Services), which is involved in the securities scam.

U.S. Position on Nuclear Materials Discussed

BK2207022292 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The Logic of the Haves"]

[Text] President George Bush's announcement on July 13 that the United States will not produce plutonium and highly enriched uranium for nuclear explosive purposes will not hold water in its claim to be an effective means to bolster non-proliferation efforts. Mr Bush has made the suo motu statement from his vacation home in Kennebunkport to achieve a purpose. Since the US President attaches importance to his Government's policy of sparing no efforts to prevent nuclear non-proliferation, one must receive answers to some basic questions before taking his proposition seriously. The first question that can be asked before extending to him congratulations for the US decision not to produce any more plutonium and enriched uranium is to tell the world how much of these dangerous materials America possesses and to what extent the stockpile can damage (if not destroy) the world. A former US Secretary of Defence, Mr Robert S. McNamara, joined two other experts to write in 1991 that the world stockpile of nuclear weapons at present consists of some 52,000 nuclear warheads. According to them, 97 per cent of these were in the hands of the US and the Soviet Union (CIS). Last month, Mr Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced their decision to reduce their nuclear arsenals to 3500 each in less then 13 years. This does sound revolutionary, but what needs explaining is that if 50,000 nuclear warheads are to be reduced to about 7,000 (as per the Bush-Yeltsin decision), what happens to the plutonium and enriched uranium contained in the roughly 21,000 nuclear warheads that will still remain in the possession of the US for a period extending up to 13 years? Secondly, have the US or any of the other four declared nuclear powers ever divulged the amount of plutonium and enriched uranium in their posssession which had still not been used to make nuclear weapons?

Mr Bush has, however, chosen to threaten the use of "the full range of political, security, intelligence and other tools at our disposal" to create an "airtight seal against proliferation." By constantly harping on the theme of a world where "regional tensions may erupt into war" in which nuclear weapons could be used with devastating consequences, Washington would almost seem to be hoping for such conflicts to emerge so that it can employ its "security" tool (a euphemism for military action) to legitimise its medicine for the world's ills. If Mr Bush is sincere about non-proliferation, and there is no doubt about his intentions, his objectives would be promoted more by dialogues and discussions, and not by unilateral declarations and veiled threats.

Sixth Round of Talks With Pakistan Announced

BK2307034292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] The sixth round of foreign secretary level talks between India and Pakistan will be held in New Delhi from the 16th to the 19th of next month. This was officially announced in New Delhi yesterday. The entire range of bilateral relations is expected to be covered during the meeting. Our Islamabad correpondent reports that the two foreign secretaries are likely to take up the finalization of the draft code of conduct regarding treatment of each other's diplomatic and other personnel. The last round of foreign secretary level talks was held in Islamabad in October last year.

Kuwait Called Biggest Petroleum, Crude Supplier

BK2207132292 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] India has signed a contract with Kuwait for the import of crude oil, diesel, and kerosene during the current financial year. The contract was signed in New

Delhi today by the chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation, Mr. Venkatasubramaniam, and the executive managing director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, Mr. (Hussain al-Shaman). Kuwait has emerged as the largest supplier of crude and petroleum products to the country since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Iran

'Rumors' of Normalizing Ties With Cairo Denied

LD2307103492 Tehran IRNA in English 0821 GMT 23 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official has brushed aside the rumours spread by some segments of the Arabic print media and certain circles on normalization of Tehran-Cairo ties, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI revealed today.

It quoted First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati as also denying the report that the Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was planning to visit Iran.

The Arab daily AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT last Sunday citing what it called "well-informed sources", said that a complete normalization of relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran will begin by August end.

Besharati attributed the spread of such rumours to the inclination of Egyptian officials towards resumption of ties with Islamic Iran and to Tehran's decisive and stable stands.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT had also reported that talks were underway between the two Muslim countries on the exchange of ambassadors.

In reply to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's question on talks of release of a joint statement in Tehran and Cairo on the said subject, Besharati said, "no decision has yet been reached for the establishment of diplomatic ties with Egypt."

In fact, he stressed, such rumours were indicative of the desire of Egyptian officials for resumption of ties. "But, the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regards to Egypt is the same as before and no change has been made in this respect."

The Foreign Ministry official strongly rejected the desultory views of certain figures on the possibility of resumption of ties with Egypt and described such statements as "solely personal views."

Added Besharati: "Such opinions should not be interpreted as Iran's stand since the Islamic republic's stand should only be determined by the leader."

Last Monday, JOMHURI had strongly criticised the notion of resumption of relations with Egypt, saying that the sky over Cairo was no more blue due to the mist which continues to hang as a result of the treacherous Camp David accord.

"The great Egyptian nation is still paying for the subservience of its rulers," it wrote, adding that relations with Egypt should be left to the Egyptian Muslim people to decide whose hearts today are "shining with the sparks of faith."

Commentary Calls Rabin Cairo Trip 'Dangerous'

LD2207133392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Station commentary: "New Developments in Middle East Peace Moves"]

[Excerpts] Zionist Prime Minister Yizthaq Rabin's trip to Cairo alongside the U.S. secretary of state's trip to the region are meant to show that some important changes are taking place in the U.S. peace moves.

Efforts to solve the Middle East crisis which began with the Madrid sessions have not as yet made any headway at the level of bilateral negotiations, unless we count negotiations between long-standing enemies as a kind of success for America. The next round of negotiations is to take place in Rome. [passage omitted]

The new Israeli Government's first move has been to postpone some of its settlement buildings projects in the occupied territories. This may be considered as an important development, but it has more to do with drawing America's attention to granting Israel the loan of $10 billion than with anything else. Israel needs this loan to absorb new Jewish refugees and to reduce its economic and social crisis, even if zionism suffers from an identity and ideological crisis above anything else.

Yitzhaq Rabin has given political priority to solving the Palestine problem and granting limited autonomy to the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza strip. He is even willing to split the bilateral talks and reach separate agreements, first with Palestinians, then with Jordan and Lebanon, and finally with Syria. Leaders of Arab governments are worried that separate solutions will destroy their common interests and, moreover, may enable America to increase pressure on them to retreat further because Yitzhaq Rabin needs Arab support if he is to make headway with his activities and projects.

However, Rabin's trip to Cairo and the warm welcome he received is a very dangerous matter. The Egyptian regime is the first regional government which made peace with Israel and has mediated on numerous occasions to normalize relations between other Arab governments and Israel.

In reality, Cairo is in too much of a hurry to prove that its policies of getting close to Yitzhaq Rabin and pressing his hand is correct. This is being done in the belief that

since we are in the age of compromise Cairo will receive a larger share of Western aid.

Six Kuwaiti Airbuses To Be Returned 'Shortly'

LD2207170192 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 22, IRNA—Iran is shortly to give delivery to Kuwait of six Kuwaiti Airbus planes parked in Iran since January 1991, said the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait Wednesday. The six planes were flown to Tehran by Iraqi pilots shortly before the attack of the allied forces against Iraq in January 1991 for its invasion of Kuwait. At that time Iraq said to Iran that the planes belonged to Iraq, but later investigation by Iran proved that they belonged to the Government of Kuwait.

In 1991 delegates from Kuwait inspected the said planes in Iran and confirmed that they belonged to the Government of Kuwait. They also appreciated the efforts of Iran for maintaining the planes in good service. Iranian and Kuwaiti experts have since discussed dues to Iran for parking and maintenance services to the Kuwaiti planes but failed to reach an agreement on the charges payable to Iran.

The Iranian Embassy in Kuwait said Wednesday that despite disagreement between Iran and Kuwait on the rate of maintenance charges payable to Iran the Iranian Government had decided to let Kuwait fly back the Airbuses to Kuwait and continue debate with Kuwaiti negotiators on the applicable charges. The Embassy said the decision had been adopted by the Iranian Government "within the framework of the good relations between the two countries."

Kuwait is expected to welcome the offer by Iran and take delivery of the six planes shortly.

Over 500,000 Afghan Refugees To Return Home

LD2207134992 Tehran IRNA in English 1238 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—Over 500,000 of the Afghan refugees in Iran are to return to their home country by the end of the current calendar year (March 1993), according to an agreement between Iran and the United Nations, said an official here today.

Interior Ministry's Director General for Expatriate Affairs Ahmad Hoseyni told IRNA that since the victory of the mujahideen in Afghanistan 180,000 Afghan refugees, mostly single, have returned to their country.

"A tripartite committee comprising Iran, Afghanistan and the United Nations will be set up in Tehran soon in order to facilitate the return home of the Afghan refugees," Hoseyni added.

He said those Afghan refugees who return home, can take all their house appliances and properties with them, and transfer their deposits to Afghanistan according to the regulations of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hoseyni said some general stores have been set up on the Iran- Afghan borders to help the refugees buy their needs, he added.

More than two million Afghan Muslims had crossed over into Iran during the 14-year old struggle against the communist regime in Kabul.

In related news, Omar Bakhit, who heads the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Tehran, announced today that daily 2,000 Afghan refugees are leaving Iran. He said international communities would provide Iran financial and material assistance in order to facilitate the return home of the Afghan refugees. Bakhit also said that at present only 100,000 Iraqi refugees were in Iran.

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war in early 1992, over 1.3 million Iraqis had sought asylum in the Islamic Republic.

Indonesian Trade Minister Continues Visit 21 Jul

Meets With President

LD2107112092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] The new world conditions necessitate injecting fresh blood into the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with Mr. Arifin Siregar, special envoy of the Indonesian president and that country's trade minister, who conveyed Indonesian President Suharto's invitation to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to participate in the NAM summit session.

Having made the aforementioned remark, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that the NAM countries must go beyond political and diplomatic issues and discuss economic matters, as well as technical, educational, and cultural cooperation, and issues of mutual interest. Elsewhere in his remarks, the president stressed the importance of drawing up new projects and examining new issues and developments concerning the NAM, in view of the new world conditions. He told the Indonesian trade minister: It would be an important step if your country, which has played a significant role in establishing this organization, initiated new projects and developments in this NAM summit round. The Islamic Republic of Iran, for its turn, will assist you to that end.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, having thanked Mr. Suharto for his kind message and accepting his invitation to participate in the NAM summit session in Jakarta, stated: I hope to be able to attend this summit, both because of the importance we attach to the NAM conference and because of our wish to become acquainted with the great Islamic country of

Indonesia. He also welcomed expanding and deepening both countries' ties in all areas of mutual interest.

During the meeting, also attended by Mr. Gharazi, head of the two countries' joint commission and our country's post, telegraph, and telecommunications minister, the Indonesian president's special envoy, having conveyed Mr Suharto's written message, stated: I would like to convey Mr. Suharto's interest and wishes regarding your excellency's participation in the NAM summit, since Iran's active presence in the NAM summit would play a significant role in upgrading the quality of the summit.

Having thanked our president for his remarks regarding the NAM summit, the Indonesian trade minister submitted a report about his country's actions and initiatives on making the best possible preparations for the summit. Concluding his remarks, he elaborated about the efforts and views of the active member countries toward economic, technical, and technological progress among these countries.

Meets With Commerce Minister

LD2107112892 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Tehran, July 21, IRNA—The visiting Indonesian Trade Minister Arifin M. Siregar discussed strengthening of Tehran-Jakarta ties with Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji here Tuesday.

Officials of the two Muslim countries also studied promotion of trade ties and further coordination between two sides for boosting relations with the newly independent Muslim states of Central Asia.

Siregar, who arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit, conveyed President Suharto's invitation to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to take part in the summit of the non-aligned countries to be held in Jakarta in September 1-6.

Khomeyni, ANC's Mandela View Apartheid

LD2107164392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Excerpts] Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, visited today the immaculate shrine of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be admitted to paradise—paid his respects to the lofty status of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and placed flowers on his tomb. The ANC leader later met with Hojjat-ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and expressed his and the South African people's appreciation for the unstinting support given by Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—and the people of Iran to the antiracism demonstrations of the black Africans. He stated: The Imam Khomeyni's thoughts were a source of encouragement to us during the length of our justice-seeking and antiracism struggles. Imam Khomeyni was the symbol of Islam, because he showed us the great power of Islam in the struggle to liberate the meek in our present times.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam val Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, addressing the ANC leader, stated: The Iranian people are very familiar with your impressive personality. The rare firmness, courage and steadfastness that you have shown has turned you into a popular revolutionary figure in Africa and throughout the world. [passage omitted] He added: Imam Khomeyni was always a defender and spokesman of the oppressed people of Africa, and we hope that people under the domination of the South Africa Government may, by continuing their justice-seeking struggles, succeed in achieving their humanitarian rights. [passage omitted]

Tajik Radio Begins Broadcasting Iranian Programs

LD2107204792 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Dushanbe, July 21, IRNA—Tajik radio at 14.00 hours local time [1000 GMT] Tuesday relayed the 14.00 hours news of Tehran Radio (the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran) inaugurating regular daily programs of the Iranian Radio for Tajiks. Later on at 17.30 hours [1330 GMT] Tuesday the Tajik Radio again broadcast live the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Tajik Radio and Television Network have recently received hi-tech receivers for switching to two television and two radio networks of Iran in the interest of the Persian speaking communities in that country. The hi-tech radio television equipments are gifts to the Tajik Radio and Television by the Iranian embassy here.

The Iranian Radio can now be clearly heard in other parts of the region such as Samarkand and Bukhara in Uzbebkistan and in parts of Afghanistan and the Indian sub-continent.

Officials at the Radio and Television Network of Tajikistan say the network will shortly broadcast the Iranian Radio on the medium wave round the clock.

Iran's Ambassador to Tajikistan 'Ali Ashraf Mojtahed Shabestari says he is ready to offer any additional help to the Tajik Radio and Television.

Road Link With Tajikistan To Open 'Soon'

LD2107154892 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), July 21, IRNA—A road link between Khorasan and Tajikistan via the republics of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will soon become operational and is in line with expansion of economic, trade and cultural cooperation between Iran and its northern neighbours.

Planning deputy of this northeastern Iranian province, Mohammadzadeh, said a delegation of Khorasani officials will shortly leave Mashhad by road to Dushanbe on the 1,700-kilometer route.

He also said that in order to utilize Turkmenistan's railway facilities and connect Iran to the Central Asian network, the 'Lotfabad' border at 'Dargaz' that lies closest to the Turkmen railway, will soon be inaugurated.

The official also said that the Mashhad-Ashkhabad telephone link comprising six F.X. channels and six direct lines, will be put into operation late July.

Yazdi, Nuri, Reza'i Discuss Judiciary Issues

LD2107222192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Jul 92

[Text] In the wake of the recent guidelines provided by the esteemed leader about the need for the Judiciary to adopt necessary decisions and to effect coordination with other interested bodies, Judiciary head Yazdi, Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi, and Major General Reza'i, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps commander in chief, and a number of other officials, held a meeting on Tuesday evening.

During the meeting, decisions were made about removing legal and executive obstacles, effecting coordination, and determining the extent of the powers of the Resistance Mobilization Force as Judiciary agents [zabetan-e qoveh-ye qaza'i]

Pakistan

U.S. Consulate Policies in Peshawar Criticized

BK2207132392 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Jul 92 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Consulate in Peshawar]

[Text] The U.S. consulate in Peshawar has been turning Pakistani applicants for visas away on the plea that these visas can no longer be issued at Peshawar, advising them to go to Islamabad and approach the consulate there. According to a report, the applicants are also being told that the Peshawar office was functioning only to grant visas to Afghan refugees, and since the Afghan refugees were now returning home, there was no need for the consulate to go on functioning as a visa-granting facility.

The truth of the matter is that the said consulate was functioning in Peshawar long before the Afghan war started, and was a facility for NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] inhabitants. Even during the war, the facility was used by citizens of Pakistan. There is no doubt that its opening had reduced the difficulties people in the NWFP used to face while obtaining visas. Consular facilities in different cities of Pakistan had divided the workload and rationalised the function of granting visas under US laws.

There is no denying the fact that it is the privilege of the United States government to open or close these facilities as and when they like. It is also true that visas can be issued only according to the stringent laws, laid down by the US government, to prevent illegal migrations. Yet, if there is a logic in the entire procedure, the people of the NWFP should not be deprived of the facility that they enjoyed in equality with the other provinces, businessmen and other citizens, who have to visit the US frequently on legitimate grounds, are keen that the visa facility should be revived in Peshawar. Travelling to Islamabad for visas is not only inconvenient because of distance but also cumbersome by reason of the increased workload at the Islamabad office. The US ambassador in Islamabad should reconsider the lifting of the visa-granting facility in Peshawar. After all, if the consulate doesn't issue visas, what else would it do to keep itself busy after the American citizens have been disposed of?

Controversy Regarding Envoy in U.S. Explained

BK2207160792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has clarified some points on the controversy which has been going on for the last few days between Pakistani Ambassador to New York Syeda Abida Hussain and Retired Air Marshal Ayaz Ahmad Khan in reference to the Kashmir issue. The spokesman said the Pakistani ambassador has been presenting very effectively the Pakistani viewpoint on Kashmir to the U.S. Administration, Congress, media and literary circles. Therefore, the question that she is not supporting the cause of Kashmir does not arise. The spokesman said the Pakistani ambassador met a large number of U.S. congressmen, media representatives, and influential figures at the Democratic Party convention in New York and highlighted vital issues of its foreign policy, especially Pakistan's viewpoint on Kashmir. The spokesman said the ambassador had given technical advice to Retired Air Marshal Ayaz Ahmad Khan on how the Kashmir issue could be best presented at the convention. He said that the retired air marshal spoke for five minutes at the concluding session of the convention. The spokesman said that before the start of the convention, the Pakistani ambassador was asked to visit Pakistan for general consultations on Pakistan-U.S. relations.

State Minister Holds Talks With Amir of Qatar

BK2207150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo has discussed with Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation between

the two countries. The talks covered regional, Islamic, and international developments and issues of mutual concern.

High-Level Offical To Visit Moscow To Buy Arms

BK2207125192 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Jul 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Secretary-general, foreign affairs, Akram Zaki will be visiting Moscow early next month in a move to take the Pak-Russian relationship out of limbo to which it was confined following the failed visit of Russian vice-president Aleksander Rutskoy in December last.

At the head of a high-level team, Zaki will also explore the possibility of purchasing Russian arms particularly the aircraft and tanks, it was further learnt.

Of particular interest to Pakistan are the Russian Su-27 and MiG-29, two ace aircraft which in terms of avionics and other sophistication compare well with the best in the world. Main battle tank T-72 is also on the Pakistan's shopping list.

But, so far only elementary exploration has taken place on these purchases. In fact, the Rusian embassy here has strongly denied the reports that a billion dollars deal has fallen through under the Indian pressure.

From the embassy point of view no negotiations on arms have taken place and so there is no question of Moscow backing out from any deal. But, Russia is a major arms seller and anybody with ready cash is welcomed to buy aircraft, tanks or any other military equipment.

The report denied by the Russian embassy inter alia said the supposed deal covered 120 Su-27s, 3000 T-72 tanks and some artillery pieces. The said deal was reportedly worked out by a former sovlet diplomat posted in Karachi.

Pak-Russian relations suffered a serious setback when Islamabad failed to produce even a single Russian POW which Rutskoy, could take with him. Islamabad had indicated to the Russians that some POWs would be handed over to him.

Since that visit no high-level contact has been established between the two countries, though in the wake of end of cold war there is a wide scope for development of political and economic relations, particularly in the field of arms supply.

In the past only a few arms transactions between the erstwhile Soviet Union and Pakistan took place. Pakistan bought a few pieces of long-range artillery and some helicopters, but these sales had become possible when the bilateral relations registered some improvement following the Tashkent Accord.

At the same time Pakistan has decided to take up the issue of F-16 with Washington more vigorously. The visit of Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, which began Monday is expected to make some headway, though the anti-Pakistan lobby headed by senior [as received] John Glenn [title as received] is working overtime to subvert Islamabad efforts.

Pakistan is waiting the delivery of 71 F-16 aircraft to which the United States is fully committed and has already received part payment. But, the supply has been held up under the application of Pressler Amendment, and there is the counter-proposal that the few pieces already built may be sold to a third party which is not acceptable to Pakistan.

French-built Mirage-2000 is also under consideration but Pakistan Air Force opposes its induction in its fleet. A French aviation team is due here shortly to convince PAF of the fensibility of the Mirage-2000, which besides the latest avionics and technology contains the national pride.

Russian Embassy Official Comments

BK2307120592 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Jul 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] Islamabad—A Russian Embassy spokesman said here Wednesday that the offer to sell Su-27 fighter bombers to Pakistan was still open and denied it had been dropped under Indian pressure.

The offer was made by Russian Vice President Aleksander Rutskoy during his visit to Islamabad last year.

A report had suggested that Moscow has backed out of it under New Delhi's pressure. Despite the lapse of about a year, there has been no progress on the offer.

"We are not influenced by any country," the spokesman told a group of journalists. "The sale of Su-27s is still on our agenda."

He told a questioner that there was no official confirmation of the reported forthcoming visit of Akram Zaki, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, to Moscow.

"However, we are expecting someone from Pakistan to reciprocate Rutskoy's visit," he said and expected that a dialogue would be held between the two countries at an appropriate time.

"Rutskoy's visit was a good start," he recalled and said invitation to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to pay a visit to Moscow had already been extended.

Answering another question, the spokesman said Moscow had some "explainable differences" with New Delhi, which "we are trying to sort out." He said that there was no clash of interest between the two countries.

He told a reporter that it was better that problems like Kashmir were resolved by India and Pakistan through dialogue.

The spokesman said the issue of 301 former Soviet POWs should be considered on humanitarian and not on political grounds. He was satisfied with the efforts of the Pakistan Foreign Office [FO] in securing their release.

He said the FO was trying its best to get the POWs free and "we know that Pakistan has a limited degree of influence on Afghan Government."

To a question, the spokesman said that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's demand for war reparations was an attempt to politicise the POWs issue.

"We are not ready to link these issues with each other." Replying [to] a question about the missing members of Prof Mojaddedi's family, he said the issue was discussed threadbare by the Afghan leader with his embassy a year ago. It cannot be linked with POWs' release, he said.

He suggested that it was up to POWs either to stay in Kabul voluntarily or to go to a third country or back home.

President, Premier Receive Afghan Visitors

BK2207145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said that Pakistan wishes to promote cooperative relations with Afghanistan on the basis of the internationally-recognized principles of sovereign equality and noninterference. Talking to the Afghan delegation led by Minister for Construction Engineer (Ayyub) in Islamabad today, the president expressed his admiration for the success of heroic Afghan jihad. He however said that after restoring the sovereignty, integrity, and Islamic character of Afghanistan, a new jihad has to be waged by its government and people for nation-building. The president assured the Afghan delegation that Pakistan would continue to assist its Afghan brothers in every possible manner in their efforts of rehabilitation and reconstruction. Engineer (Ayyub) conveyed to the president gratitude of the Afghan Government and people for the support that Afghan mojahedin had received during the 14-year war.

An Afghan commander, Mr. (Amir Hamza), called on the Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad today and thanked him for Pakistan's support to Afghan mojahedin in their struggle to liberate Afghanistan. The prime minister said that Pakistan had supported the Afghan people as a matter of religious obligation toward the brothers who were fighting for a right cause. He also assured the Afghan commander that Pakistan would continue to support the Afghan brothers in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Three Memorandums Signed With Kabul

BK2207110392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have signed three memorandums of understanding for cooperation in telecommunications, highways and postal sectors. These memorandums were signed at a meeting between the visiting Afghan delegation and the Pakistani team in Islamabad yesterday. Minister of State for Communications Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti assured the Afghan delegation that every possible assistance will be provided in telecommunications, postal services and construction of highways. Pakistan will also help in the reconstruction of devastated areas of Afghanistan.

At another meeting, it was decided that a Pakistani delegation will soon visit Afghanistan to explore natural gas for local needs and exports. The Afghan delegation which was headed by deputy minister for industries and minerals, (Syed Mahfuz Nadal), said that another delegation will soon visit Pakistan to formulate modalities for the supply of petroleum products to Pakistan.

The Afghan delegation headed by minister in charge for construction, Engineer (Ayyub), called on Foreign Secretary General M. Akram Zaki. Zaki told the delegation that Pakistan respects Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, and its territorial integrity and Islamic status and the two countries hold identical views on peace and security. Afghan delegation leader Engineer (Ayyub) said that contacts with the newly-independent countries of Central Asia can be established by further expanding the emerging cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Pakistani-Afghan-Uzbek Railway Pact Signed

BK2207163492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Pakistan and Afghanistan to undertake preliminary survey and feasibility for a rail link from Landi Kotal to Kabul and Uzbekistan. The memorandum was signed in Islamabad today by the federal Minister for Railways Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour, and the Afghan minister for construction, Engineer Mohammad (Ayyub).

Turkish Official Meets Foreign, Finance Officials

BK2207110792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] (Ozdan Sanbarg), Turkish Foreign Ministry under secretary, held talks with Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki on enhancing close cooperation in a number of fields. The Turkish delegation was briefed on the wide possibility of adopting a common strategy for establishing close economic ties with Central Asian countries. The two sides agreed on the need to further strengthen the Economic Cooperation Organization in

order to utilize it as a vehicle for further expansion of economic and trade ties. The Turkish Foreign Ministry undersecretary also called on Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz and exchanged views with him on expanding economic and trade ties with Central Asian countries.

Makes Airport Statement, Departs

BK2207124392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 92

[Text] Pakistan and Turkey have decided to give a new impetus to their relations as a vital factor for stability in the region. This was stated by the under secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. (Ozdan Sanbarg), while talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport this morning before leaving for home at the end of his visit to Pakistan. He said the measures agreed during talks with Pakistani officials included expansion of economic ties and exchange of high-level visits between the two countries.

About Kashmir, Mr. (Sanbarg) said that position of Turkey is the same as that of Pakistan and it had already made known its stand publicly on a number of occasions.

The Pakistani foreign secretary who was present on the occasion said the forthcoming ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] ministerial meeting in Islamabad in September would pave the way for the Central Asian republics to join the organization, raising its strength from three to nine countries.

Army Backs Government Policy in Sindh Operation

BK2207132792 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Jul 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Consensus on Operations"]

[Text] At a very high level meeting held at GHQ [General Headquarters] Rawalpindi attended by the President and the Prime Minister, the Services Chiefs have unanimously backed the elected Government and pledged to execute the Sindh Operation Clean-up according to the mandate given to the operational command. Addressing the meeting at the outset, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Gen. Asif Nawaz, assured in very clear words that the Armed Forces were committed to implementing the policies devised by the elected Government. He said the Armed Forces fully support the democratic set-up in the country and were duty bound to keep themselves within their "professional limits", the foremost of which is the defence of the country from external threats.

The categorical statement of the COAS should set at rest all kinds of kite-flying about an impending martial law in the country. Ever since the clean-up operation was launched in Sindh for an essential and laudable purpose, such rumours have been spread by elements who cannot be regarded as well-wishers of the country. In the forefront of the nefarious campaign have been those leaders who were rejected by the electorate at the last general elections. The political posture now adopted by them is extremely unfortunate. Soon after the clean-up operation started to make headway, rumours were also spread that some differences have developed between the army and the civil government on the line of action to be adopted. The categorical statement of the COAS at the high level meeting has burst this balloon of falsehood. The Armed Forces are the powerful arm of the elected Government and it is their duty to be the source of implementation of its policies and the mandate given to them. The few impediments and difficulties experienced by the Army during the initial stages of the operation have been removed by the promulgation of an ordinance amending the Code of Criminal Procedure (CRPC). With this, the quality and efficiency of the operation will greatly improve. According to a military source, there was complete identity of views at the meeting among the civil and military heirarchy on the manner, objective and conduct of the operation clean-up. The President and the Prime Minister have directed the operational command to go ahead with the task entrusted to it by the Government to crush dacoits, saboteurs, terrorists, abductors and other criminals, no matter to which party or creed they belong. There is to be no let up in the operation and it would continue to its logical conclusion. Moving in an even-handed manner and with the required powers having been granted to it, the Army should now be able to flush out the criminals from the hideouts provided to them by the influential people of the province. It needs to be pointed out that however essential the military action in Sindh, a long-term solution should be found to the problem through a comprehensive political-socio-economic package for the province which has already been announced by the Government.